

EU team due here next week

PARIS (Petra) — A European Union (EU) delegation will start a tour of the region next week to get familiarised with developments in the Middle East peace process and Europe's role in supporting it, according to a French foreign ministry official. The official said the delegation would seek in its tour of Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas to assert Europe's role in the region and its readiness to support the peace process. The official said the Washington Declaration ending the state of belligerency between Jordan and Israel "emanates from a realistic approach and understanding of the new international facts as well as the desire of both parties to achieve peace." The EU delegation will include the foreign ministers of Germany, France and Greece.

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Israel hits German ties with Iran

BONN (AP) — Israel's foreign minister on Monday chided Germany for its policy of grooming a friendship with Iran, saying it was mistaken and would not steer Tehran away from "terrorism." In Bonn for a three-day visit, Shimon Peres said the world should isolate Iran because of attacks like the July 18 bombing in Buenos Aires, Argentina, that killed 95 people. "Iran carries a great deal of responsibility for acts of terrorism. We would like to see the whole world come together to impress the Iranians to stop financing organisations of terror and violence," Mr. Peres said. With German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel at his side during a news conference, Mr. Peres said Germany's policy of trying to get Iran to mend its ways through a dialogue is not likely to bear fruit. "We feel the controlled dialogue does not lead to the necessary goals. We are afraid this is a dialogue that has a sincerity only on one of its parts," meaning Germany, he said.

Russian Middle East envoy in Damascus

DAMASCUS (AP) — Russian envoy Viktor Posovayuk met Monday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharrat to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East peace process, the state-run news agency said. Mr. Posovayuk, head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa and Middle East Department, also discussed Syrian ties with Russia. The Syrian Arab News Agency gave no further details. The Russian embassy arrived Saturday from Lebanon on the second leg of a regional tour. He is also scheduled to visit Jordan and Israel. Mr. Posovayuk last visited Damascus in July, seeking to resume direct peace talks with Israel and end their boycott of the multilateral track of the Middle East peace talks.

Bomb kills child, wounds 13 in Iraq

NICOSIA (AFP) — A car-bomb went off near the offices of the Iraqi government newspaper in Baghdad on Monday, killing a child and wounding 13 other people, the official Iraqi News Agency reported. The bomb slightly damaged the offices of the newspaper, Al Fatah, but wrecked five buses and a large number of vehicles. The agency blamed the attack on "agents of Iraq's enemies." The last car-bomb explosion in Baghdad wounded two people on Oct. 20.

Inter-Kurdish clashes reported

NICOSIA (AP) — Heavy fighting between rival factions in the self-governing Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq erupted at the weekend, Tehran Radio reported Monday. But Kurdish officials said there were only minor skirmishes that had been snuffed out. The Iranian radio's Arabic-language service reported heavy casualties in weekend clashes triggered by an attack by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Saturday on the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and its allies of the Islamic Party of Kurdistan in Qala Diza near the Iranian border.

Ambushed car returned to U.N.

KUWAIT (AP) — A U.N. patrol car ambushed 10 days ago on the Iraqi side of the demilitarised zone along Kuwait's northern border has been recovered, a U.N. spokesman reported Monday. Abdul Latif Kabbaj of the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission told the Associated Press the four-wheel-drive vehicle was found Monday by Iraqi troops near Jabal Saman, about 30 kilometres west of the ambush site. "All the parts had been removed," Mr. Kabbaj said.

Jordan-PLO talks end on upbeat note

Committee set up to achieve coordination

'Liberation of Jerusalem is common goal'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — At the end of two days of meetings, Jordanian and Palestinian delegates appeared ready to put months of uneasy relations behind them and look forward to more practical and coordinated steps especially vis-a-vis their negotiations with Israel. But it was equally apparent that the visiting Palestinian delegation, albeit senior level, did not have a mandate to conclude agreements with Jordan, including a pending economic pact. But despite the fact the two sides did not announce any new agreement between them or set a date for a meeting between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and His Majesty King Hussein, officials from both sides stressed that this round of talks between the two sides was different from the ones that had preceded it. "It is different because the Palestinian (National) Authority (PNA) is now playing its role on the ground and this helps in discussing matters in a practical spirit and handling issues in a direct manner," the Palestinian information and culture minister, Yasser Abed Rabbo, told reporters at the end of the meetings. This joint committee will

have the jurisdiction to form sub-committees which will be assigned specified subjects to deliberate and "provide the joint committee with recommendations."

The two sides will each prepare a position paper on the status of displaced people ahead of their September meeting during which the two sides will work to arrive at a joint paper representing a common negotiating position on the fate of the displaced people.

Jordanian officials said privately that they were "satisfied" with their two-day meetings with the Palestinians although one official indicated that the Palestinian team "did not have a mandate" to conclude agreements with Jordan.

The Palestinian team, however, appeared to be ready to meet Jordan halfway on a number of issues but more importantly on the controversy over the Holy City of Jerusalem and a \$30 million trade agreement between Jordan and Israel that would allow the Kingdom to export consumer goods to the occupied territories which are still outside the jurisdiction of the self-rule authority.

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MAKESHIFT SERVICES: Children are weighed at a makeshift hospital at the "Inera" refugee camp, 35 kilometres north of Bukavu. Settled by Caritas, this camp is providing aid to 15,000 Rwandan refugees who left their country for fear of hypothetical reprisals by the Rwandan Patriotic Front (see page 12) (AFP photo)

44 killed in Morocco air crash

RABAT (Agencies) — A Royal Air Maroc passenger plane crashed shortly after takeoff Sunday evening, killing all 44 people aboard, the airline said.

The ATR-42 aircraft was on a flight from the southern city of Agadir to Casablanca when it crashed about 35 kilometres north of Agadir. All 40 passengers, including a baby, and the four-member crew were killed when it fell to earth 10 minutes after taking off.

Sixteen of the dead were foreigners, including eight Italian tourists, three or four Frenchmen and an American, according to the state-owned airline.

The victims included a Kuwaiti prince identified as 38-year-old Ali Al Mahmoud Al Jabir Al Sabah, brother of Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Al Mahmoud Al Jabir Al Sabah, and his wife, it said.

It was not immediately known what caused the accident, which occurred around 7:00 p.m. (1900 GMT) at Douar Izoumine, authorities said.

"It's too soon to talk about the cause of this catastrophe," said an airline spokesman who asked not to be identified by name. "The weather apparently posed no problem at the moment of the accident."

The plane "left in mid-afternoon from Casablanca to Agadir, where it made a stopover before leaving at 6:43 p.m. (1843 GMT)," Moroccan Civil Aviation Director Mohammed Moufid told the radio network Europe-1.

"Ten minutes later, the crew sent out a distress signal," Mr. Moufid said. "A search team was sent out and the wreckage found around 8:30 p.m. (2030 GMT). Unfortunately none of the 44 people on board survived."

Transport Minister Rachid Al Rhezouani travelled to the accident site to inspect the crash zone. The plane was one of three ATR-42s acquired by Royal Air Maroc in 1989, said the airline's president, Mohammed Mekouar.

The last major accident of a passenger plane in Morocco was in 1975 when a Jordanian Boeing 707 crashed near Agadir, killing 188 people.

In 1970 a Caravelle aircraft belonging to RAM crashed south of Casablanca, killing 61.

Franco-Italian consortium Avions de Transport Regional (ATR) said on Monday it was sending a team of five experts to Morocco following Sunday's crash.

Syria rejected Israeli offer to quit Lebanon, Rabin says

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syria rebuffed an Israeli offer to withdraw from Lebanon within nine months, insisting there had to be a comprehensive peace deal, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview published Monday.

Mr. Rabin told the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat that the offer to quit Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon within nine months had been passed to Lebanon by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

But Syria, the key power broker in Lebanon, had "warned Christopher that talks with Lebanon and any settlement must be linked to the negotiations and settlement with Syria," Mr. Rabin told the paper, which is printed here.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouze said Monday the Israeli offer "contains traps and is vague."

Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon, insists that any peace deal with Israel must include a pledge to withdraw from the Golan Heights and all Arab territories, including southern Lebanon.

Mr. Rabin said a Syrian

demand for Israel to withdraw from the Golan within several months "is impossible to achieve," saying it would take years.

Israel seized the plateau in 1967 and "annexed" it in 1981.

Mr. Bouze told AFP Mr. Rabin's offer as reported by Al Hayat was "imprecise."

"Israel has spoken of a withdrawal plan but its proposal conceals a number of traps and has grey areas," he said.

He said the offer was aimed at ending resistance to the Israeli occupation of South Lebanon and "putting the Lebanese government to the test for a few months" to see how it dealt with the resistance before negotiations on a withdrawal began.

Mr. Bouze said the Israeli offer required extensive clarification and could not be described as positive.

Mr. Rabin told Al Hayat that Mr. Christopher's peace efforts had "not yet managed to reach a preliminary accord on the essential issues."

He hoped that an accord would be reached before the next Israeli general elections to be held in 1996.

Mr. Rabin added Christopher would return in the second half of September on

another shuttle mission, because "Syria refuses any other form of negotiations."

Israel's chief policy coordinator for Lebanon said on Monday that progress in stalled Lebanese-Israeli peace talks may be only a few weeks away.

"We believe that the time is not too distant, maybe weeks, when there will be progress, and progress to peace is always a good thing," Uri Lubrani told reporters in Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon.

"You have seen what has happened on the Jordanian track and I hope that we shall make similar progress on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks," Mr. Lubrani added.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Jordan have signed initial agreements with the Jewish state.

Mr. Bouze said last week that a breakthrough in talks with Israel was possible in the next few months.

Mr. Lubrani said Lebanon would not "pay a price" to reach agreement with Israel but he repeated Israel's conditions for peace.

"No 1, that all those forces... those terrorist forces

(Continued on page 7)

Israel: No 'early' recognition of a Palestinian state

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL CANNOT accept demands for quick recognition of a Palestinian state, and a formula for permanent peace in the Middle East remains elusive, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Monday.

"Nobody in Israel will accept such a demand before negotiations start," Mr. Beilin told a news briefing in Copenhagen.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh group said on Sunday it would insist that Israel recognise a Palestinian state if it wants the PLO to remove clauses in its charter calling for the destruction of Israel.

But in Cairo, Palestinian officials denied on Monday that Fateh was seeking such an Israeli recognition as a precondition.

"There has been no such decision," chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

A member of Fateh's central committee, Sakhr Abu Nazer, said on Sunday the decision to link the two issues had been taken on Saturday night at a meeting in Tunis chaired by Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat, whose Fateh group is the largest inside the PLO, undertook in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the time of last year's self-rule deal to amend those articles of the charter denying Israel's right to exist.

"Let me be very clear. There has been absolutely no decision taken by Fateh or by the PLO leadership to take any new precondition," Dr. Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

In Jerusalem, leading PLO official Faisal Al Hussein said no such decision had been taken by Fateh but he added such a move could not be ruled out in the future.

"It is his (Abu Nazer's) personal opinion and his conviction but Fateh's decision would be decided by members of the Central Committee

and Revolutionary Council with the attendance of all their members," Mr. Hussein, who attended Saturday's meeting, said.

In Copenhagen, Mr. Beilin stressed that under the Middle East peace process Israel and the Palestinians are not to discuss a Palestinian state until talks on the final status of occupied territories begin after two years of self-rule — in May 1996.

The target date for a permanent peace arrangement between Israel and the Palestinians is May 1999. "We have a date but no formula (for peace)," said Mr. Beilin, one of the architects of the deal giving the Palestinians self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Beilin said he believed the most realistic formula for peace was an Israeli withdrawal from "most of the occupied territories" and a confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state

(Continued on page 7)

Israel, PLO work hard on next phase of self-rule

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pledged to work round the clock to reach an accord by Wednesday on extending civilian powers to Palestinians in the rest of the West Bank in talks which opened here Monday.

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath told journalists the delegations were determined to meet their target date and complete the talks on Wednesday even if it meant working through the night.

"We are going to finish this agreement on early empowerment," Dr. Shaath said.

"We had agreed in Alexandria that we conclude this week so we are staying here day and night," Dr. Shaath added, referring to talks last week in the Egyptian port city.

"I am optimistic that this is the last session," added his Israeli counterpart General Danny Rothchild.

Gen. Rothchild said one or two more days may be

needed to draft an accord but that it could be finalised on Wednesday.

It will mark a second phase in Palestinian self-rule launched in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho with the signing of the May 4 accord in Cairo.

The transfer of powers is due to be followed by a redeployment of Israeli forces away from heavily-populated Palestinian areas on the West Bank.

Elections to an autonomy council to govern Gaza and Jericho are also to be held.

Dr. Shaath said the transfer of powers in education started Sunday and would be completed in time for the start of the new school year on Sept. 1.

Agreements on health care, social welfare and tourism as well as the budget and taxation have still to be finalised.

The other powers should be transferred in the two weeks following the clinching of an accord on early empowerment, Dr. Shaath said.

But he accused Israel of "manoeuvring" over the date for elections to the autonomy council, which the Palestinians have set for Dec. 15.

According to the Palestinians, Israel has set as a condition for elections the scrapping of clauses in the PLO charter calling for the destruction of the Jewish state.

Dr. Shaath said it would be "better" for the Palestinians to amend the PLO charter after the elections.

Last Thursday Israel set the first date for handing over powers to Palestinians in the still-occupied West Bank, saying it would transfer education to their control by the start of the school year on Sept. 1.

Education is the first of five spheres of authority being transferred to expand Palestinian powers to the West Bank beyond Jericho and the Gaza Strip, banded over in May.

Blockade is on its way out, but problems loom in Jeddah

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As Jordan is heaving a sigh of relief that the four-year-old de facto blockade of the port of Aqaba is ending this week, another serious problem has cropped up — self-assumed Saudi inspections of Jordan-bound cargo.

More than 500 containers destined for Aqaba unloaded at the Saudi port of Jeddah have been stuck there — some for as long as two weeks — after Saudi authorities ordered all of them opened and inspected but left no clear instructions on their fate, shipping sources and businessmen said.

The containers, all of them destined for the Jordanian market and none containing any material that could be suspected as violating the international sanctions against Iraq, were unloaded from four ships for routine transhipment to Aqaba through feeder vessels, they said.

They explained that it was the usual practice of many shipping lines to unload Jordan-bound containers at Jeddah for transhipment to Aqaba so that the vessels did not have to face the difficulties posed by the offshore inspections carried out by the U.S.-led warships enforcing

the international sanctions against Iraq.

In turn, Jordanian importers arranged for the transhipment of the containers aboard smaller vessels which could meet the guidelines set by the inspectors such as cargo accessibility and stowage requirements, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Saudi authorities used to pose problems, on and off for Jordan-bound shipments and Jordanian officials and shipping agents did not make an issue of such practices because they did not want to "do anything to undermine Saudi-Jordanian relations," said one source.

That was a reference to the strain in ties dating back to the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Repeated Jordanian efforts to explain the Kingdom's stand against a military solution to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait through Jordan's quest to normalise relations with Saudi Arabia have not been very successful.

"However, 10 days ago, Jeddah port authorities suddenly ordered all concerned shipping agents at Jeddah to open all Aqaba-bound containers at the port for inspections," said the source.

"There were no written instructions, and inspections were carried out in haphazard manner."

"But no clear instructions were left after the inspections on whether the cargo was cleared for transhipment," said the source. "As such, shipping agents at Jeddah are at a loss over how to proceed now."

According to the sources, none of the shipments inspected by the Saudis was found to contain goods in violation of the sanctions against Iraq and therefore there is no justifiable reason for the non-issuance of clearance orders by the Jeddah port authorities.

The containers were unloaded at Aqaba from four ships operated by six European lines, the source said. The embassies of the concerned countries have been notified of the problem and "diplomatic wheels are turning," said the source.

Jordan has also sought American help to convince Saudi authorities to release the shipments, businessmen said. The precise status of American intervention, if any, was not immediately known, but two small feeder ships were cleared to proceed

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Syria, Turkey and Iran reaffirm stand against Iraq partition

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Turkey, Iran and Syria on Sunday reaffirmed their determination to oppose any disintegration of their neighbour, Iraq and expressed concerns for Kurdish attempts to gain greater autonomy in the region.

The countries' foreign ministers, Murtaz Soysal of Turkey, Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran and Farouk Al Sharaa of Syria, issued the statement after a day of talks.

They affirmed the "utmost importance" of the governments' commitment to the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq.

"They also reiterated their rejection of statements and activities of certain groups in some Western countries aiming at disintegrating Iraq and encouraging separatism," said the statement.

Some 17 million Kurds live in Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq. Three governments have been wary of the U.N.-backed experiment in Kurdish autonomy which followed the 1991 Gulf war.

The Iraqi Kurdish enclave is protected by U.N. guards and U.S., British and French warplanes based in Turkey.

Full statehood for the three million Kurds in northern Iraq could encourage their brethren elsewhere to push for greater self-rule or independence.

At their last meeting in February in Ankara, Mr. Sharaa, Mr. Velayati and their former Turkish counterpart, Hikmet Cetin, opposed any division of Iraq.

The three states meet regularly to discuss regional issues and set their next gathering for December in Iran.

Before beginning their

talks Sunday, Mr. Soysal told reporters that all three governments wanted to see a halt to the inter-Kurdish strife that has beset the autonomous Kurdish enclave in northern Iraq and reportedly left scores dead.

Several attempts at a ceasefire in recent months have apparently failed to end clashes.

"We have a common interest: the ending of this fighting," said Mr. Soysal.

He added that "our approach to the ending of this fighting is different from the approach of others," he said, without elaborating.

In a news conference after the talks, Mr. Velayati said no "practical measures" had been taken by the three countries to curb activities on borders.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) in Tehran said Sunday's meeting would not mean any interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

The ministers also condemned acts of terrorism against their countries and agreed to continue their contacts to help maintain security and stability in the volatile region.

After the news conference, President Hafez Al Assad separately met briefly with Mr. Velayati and Mr. Soysal.

The ministers did not mention Ankara's intensification of a bloody crackdown on the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which Turkish diplomats earlier had said would be high on the agenda.

PKK guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in southeastern Turkey for 10 years. An estimated 10,000 people have died in the uprising.

Syria and Turkey had signed a security agreement in which Damascus pledged to prevent the PKK from using its land to launch attacks against Turkey.

Two PKK bases in Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in Lebanon were closed following the signing of the agreement in 1992.

Mr. Soysal, in the joint news conference with Mr. Sharaa and Mr. Velayati, said Turkey was holding contacts with Baghdad.

"The talks are held within the framework of efforts to normalise ties among countries of the region. We are informing our neighbours about these contacts. We will also inform Iraq about the outcome of this meeting," he said.

The joint statement said Iraq should be able to decide its future without any foreign interference. Iraq has denounced the meetings as interference in its internal affairs.

The ministers also urged Iraq to comply with U.N. Gulf war resolutions if it wanted to resume its position in the international community.

The United Nations imposed economic and military sanctions on Iraq after its six-month invasion and occupation of Kuwait which ended in February 1991.

"They (the ministers) urged Iraq to intensify its efforts in that direction and to fully cooperate with the United Nations," the statement said.

President Assad's talks with Mr. Soysal also focused on water-sharing and security cooperation.



ANOTHER FIRST: A Palestinian bedouin takes part at a camel race during the first festival ever held for Palestinian bedouins after autonomy in Deir Al Balah in the Gaza Strip. Events included horse races, dances and songs (AFP photo)

Palestinian women's leader receives death threats

MAHA NASSER, who heads the women's branch of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), said she had received several threatening telephone calls, that people had tried to break into her house and that a blood-soaked T-shirt was left on her doorstep.

The threats began after Ms. Nasser said Social Affairs Minister Intisar Al Wazir should be invited to a planned women's conference as "a struggling woman and a brave woman but not as a representative of the authority."

The conference is being organised by the Palestinian Women's General Union which Ms. Nasser said was "a non-governmental organisation and in the occupied territories it was against the autonomy accord."

Ms. Nasser told AFP that on Wednesday one caller, who said he was from the Abu Jihad group, gave her 48 hours to change her mind "or he was going to wipe out me and my family."

She got more such telephone calls on Thursday, and on Friday she found the bloody garment outside her home in Ramallah on the occupied West Bank.

Ms. Wazir, also known as Um Jihad, the widow of Abu Jihad, the former deputy of Yasser Arafat, who was killed by Israeli commandos in Tunis in April 1988.

She told AFP she did not know about Ms. Nasser's allegations, adding "I condemn such acts if they really took place."

Islamic opposition grows to U.N. population conference

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Muslim fundamentalists have stepped up their campaign against next month's U.N. population conference in Cairo, charging that it will encourage homosexuality, premarital sex and abortion.

Islamic lawyers are seeking a court order this week to block the meeting, and a Jordanian federation has urged that Egypt cancel it outright or risk "turmoil and public anger."

The pro-Islamic Al Ahrar newspaper carried a front-page headline Sunday characterising the conference as "consolidating American dominance" over family values and urged readers to mail in their objections.

The hardliners are not expected to scuttle the Sept. 5-13 meeting, which planners say will draw more than 15,000 people from throughout the world.

But the Muslim stance, along with the Vatican's vociferous offensive against artificial birth control, has organisers worried that the conference's main point — controlling burgeoning population — will be lost.

Pope John Paul II has been lobbying all Roman Catholics to join his anti-contraception and anti-abortion crusade. His appeal earlier this month brought some 200,000 Catholics onto the streets of the Philippines capital, Manila in a protest march.

U.N. officials have stressed the "programme of action" to be presented at the conference is so far only a draft and that even in its final form will not be binding on governments.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak also has tried to assure all sides that no nation will be forced to accept anything that contradicts religious beliefs or traditions.

"Those who protest some times on the conference agenda basically forget the conference's ultimate objective — to curb overpopulation and link population growth levels to development," Mr. Mubarak told a



Hosni Mubarak

weekend meeting of Islamic scholars.

Still, Dr. Mohammad Bouzidi, an official of the Tunis-based International Planned Parenthood Federation, believes the conference will be a watershed for family planning, just as the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro was for the environment.

"The level of confrontation between the advocates of free reproductive choice and women's development on the one hand, and the advocates of the return to the middle ages on the other, have never been so clear," he writes in the current issue of Cairo's Al Ahrar weekly.

The gathering — technically known as the International Conference on Population and Development — is seeking a consensus on how to deal over the next 20 years with the world's exploding population and the problems of hunger and poverty.

The goal is to try to hold world population to about 7.27 billion by the year 2015, compared with the current 5.7 billion.

Left unchecked, the U.N. says, world population will reach 7.92 billion by 2015 billion and 12.5 billion by 2050, with much of the growth in underdeveloped countries that can ill afford to cope.

Most Muslim institutions are not opposed to the concept of family planning but

question specific sections of the conference's draft agenda.

The powerful Al Azhar, the Cairo-based centre of Islamic scholarship for the Arab World, said in a statement earlier this month that the draft agenda "is full of loose expressions" that appear to contradict Islamic principles.

It stressed three points in the draft as particularly offensive:

— A mention of "plurality of forms" for families, which it says implies an acceptance of homosexuality.

— The call for making sexual advice available to all individuals as counter to Islam's ban on sex outside marriage.

— References to safe abortion, which Islam accepts only if the mother's life is in danger.

Fundamentalist lawyer Abdul Halim Mandour, who has brought the suit seeking to block the meeting, told the Associated Press he believes "the mere discussion of such issues violates public morality and public modesty in violation of the (Egyptian) constitution and Islamic law."

Sudanese Islamic leader Abdul Gafel Al Karourz went further, blasting population control proposals as "a Zionist plot" aimed at encouraging population growth in Israel while depressing it among Islamic nations.

Moderate Muslims here have begun trying to find a middle ground.

Grand Mufti Sheikh Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, Egypt's chief Islamic official, issued a "fatwa," or religious edict, last week saying his review of the U.N. draft "did not find any open call for free or perverted sex."

He took issue with the fundamentalists on abortion, saying it can be allowed when the mother's life is threatened or the pregnancy has been caused by rape or incest. He also would condone an abortion in special cases where a family's contraceptive has failed and they are unable financially to support a child.

Travellers report Rafah procedures relaxed slightly

RAFAH, the Gaza Strip (AFP) — Palestinians returning from Egypt at the Rafah border into Gaza were pleasantly surprised when Israeli sent them through passport control, security and customs procedures in only three hours.

Up to now they have been keeping men, women and children for up to a day in crowded, stuffy halls.

The change at the weekend follows intense negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian officials and a promise by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal to increase the number of Israeli employees at Rafah and streamline travel procedures.

But hawkers, who make up a large proportion of the travellers, complained instead of steep customs duties. Many came through with empty suitcases, having left behind their goods to return with more money for clearance.

"We were not delayed much by the (Israeli) passport officers," said Wedad Inshass, 40, who goes on regular shopping sprees to Egypt, and returns with bags full of sheets, towels and plastic goods to sell on sidewalks in Gaza. "And today they had an electronic device to check our bags."

"But, I was asked to pay 800 shekels \$266 for 10 kilos of goods. How am I going to

make a profit," she grumbled as she squeezed into a taxi with six other people. Her deflated bag sat on top of other luggage on the deck.

According to the self-rule agreement signed May 4 in Cairo, the Palestinians are to share with the Israelis the Rafah border to Egypt from the autonomous Gaza Strip and the King Hussein Bridge linking Jordan with Jericho, the other self-rule area in the West Bank.

The Palestinians were scheduled to take up their posts Monday and to start managing documents, customs and security two weeks from now.

But Israeli negotiator General Danny Rothchild said Sunday that the crossing points were awaiting the arrival of Palestinian border inspectors and customs officers.

While ultimate security control remains under the Israelis, the Palestinian presence is expected to speed up procedures.

Palestinians have charged Israeli border officials of deliberately complicating the strict bureaucratic procedures, or just standing by idly as families converge on the counters, hauling heavy bags, children and water bottles for the long wait.

Their nightmare sometimes continued for two days or more, with whole families

sleeping inside the badly ventilated hall, deprived of proper sanitary facilities.

Taxi-driver Mohammad Ahmad, who has been shuttling people back and forth for many months, said, "Things are a bit better today. I can tell the difference. We used to wait for hours and hours out here for passengers, today it's quicker."

As he spoke, another Israeli-run bus drove out of the border compound's electric gate, unloaded more returning Palestinians, and filed up with travellers to Egypt.

A policeman checked people through onto the vehicle as young soda vendors called out "Egyptian pounds, and cold drinks." They sell the currency for taxi drivers who get Egyptian pounds from returning Palestinians, at a five per cent profit. Trade was brisk both ways.

Carts full of soap and shampoo, made in Gaza, stood by waiting to be loaded onto the bus, to go to market stalls in the densely populated areas of Cairo.

"The Egyptians don't ask for much customs," said Mohammad Abdul Latif Mahmoud.

"But they keep us waiting for ever. They are as bad as the Israelis," he said, adding he was sent back twice, for no reason.

JORDAN TELEVISION

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PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Starcom

17:25 Memoire De L'Europe

18:30 News in French

18:45 Grand Galop

19:00 News in Hebrew

19:30 Innovation

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Hollywood Star Makers

21:10 The Commish

22:00 News in English

22:20 Rose Against The Odds

PRAYER TIMES

06:37 Fajr

06:00 (Sunrise) Dhuhr

12:38 Dhuhr

16:17 Asr

19:18 Maghrib

20:41 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 610740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590,
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrace Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694195

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 649332

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:

Hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 21/25

Amman 27 / 40

Aqaba 27 / 38

Disera 19 / 38

Jordan Valley 26 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 34, Aqaba 40. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Kar'an 790286

Dr. Walid Al Masri 674585

Dr. Ramzi Masri 794788

Dr. Khalil Jbali 740740

First pharmacy 661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637033

Naioukh pharmacy 626772

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shamsi pharmacy 637660

Naioukh pharmacy 636772

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ali Al Shoaibi 246140

Alquds pharmacy (-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Mofid Damrah 985522

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rousse Police 192 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 894390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints 603800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 874667

Complaints 661176

Complaints 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 630321

Regains 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 773111

Jordan Television 774111

Radio Jordan 680100

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-55330

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-55330

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)55330-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) 06:00 Damascus (RJ) 06:30 Dhahran (RJ) 06:45 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ) 10:15 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) 10:35 Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 16:15 New Delhi (add) (RJ) 17:35 London (RJ) 17:50 Cairo (RJ) 18:40 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ) 19:25 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ) 03:00 Madrid (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS) 09:35 Cairo (MS) 13:30 Muscat, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (GF) 16:00 Riyadh (SV) 17:00 Rome (AZ) 18:30 Paris, Beirut (AF)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

03:30 New Delhi (add) (RJ) 06:00 Aqaba (RJ) 06:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) 12:00 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ) 12:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 12:35 Geneva, Brussels (RJ) 12:55 Cairo (RJ) 13:05 Cucumbers (large) 200 / 120 Cucumbers (small) 370 / 280 Eggplant 200 / 120 Fig 450 / 300 Garlic 300 / 200 Grapes 250 / 150 Guava 350 / 250 Lemon 350 / 250 Marrow (large) 200 / 150 Marrow (small) 420 / 280 Mahlabah 130 / 80 Okra 120 / 80 Orange 300 / 200 Onion (dry) 270 / 180 Sweet Melon 180 / 180 Pepper (hot) 240 / 180 Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200 Potatoes 350 / 250 Peaches 800 / 500 Tomatoes 120 / 70 String Beans 650 / 450 Watermelon 90 / 50

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 Beirut (add) (ME) 10:20 Larnaca, Rome (AZ) 10:30 Cairo (MS) 13:30 Vienna (OS) 14:30 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (GF) 15:30 Riyadh (SV) 16:00 Damascus (AZ) 16:30 Kiev (6U) 08:30 Amsterdam (KL) 01:30 Bucharest (RO)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 5:00 a.m. every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:30 a.m. every Sunday

Dep. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/400

Banana 600

Banana (Mukammal) 600

Cabbage 120 / 60

Carrot 120 / 100

Cauliflower (large) 250 / 180

Cucumbers (large) 200 / 120

Cucumbers (small) 370 / 280

Eggplant 200 / 120

Fig 450 / 300

Garlic 300 / 200

Grapes 250 / 150

Guava 350 / 250

Lemon 350 / 250

Marrow (large) 200 / 150

Marrow (small) 420 / 280

Mahlabah 130 / 80

Okra 120 / 80

Orange 300 / 200

Onion (dry) 270 / 180

Sweet Melon 180 / 180

Pepper (hot) 240 / 180

Pepper (sweet) 300 / 200

Potatoes 350 / 250

Peaches 800 / 500

Tomatoes 120 / 70

String Beans 650 / 450

Watermelon 90 / 50

Home News

Queen Noor celebrates birthday

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Noor celebrates her 53rd birthday today.

During the last decade and a half, Queen Noor has actively promoted socio-economic and human development in Jordan, and has endeavored to promote understanding of Jordanian society and culture, acting as a bridge between Jordan and the rest of the world.

In Jordan, Queen Noor works in partnership with various organizations and individuals in promoting and supporting development projects.

As the chairwoman of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), Queen Noor directs projects and programmes which seek to address the needs of individuals and communities to enhance their standards of living.

Since its establishment in 1985, NHF has introduced innovative and dynamic integrated community development models that set national standards of excellence in human and socio-economic development, education, culture and the arts.

NHF has initiated and expanded upon national development projects in the areas of family and community development, women in development, child welfare, the promotion of cultural heritage and the advancement of education.

During the past year, the Queen continued to focus her efforts to initiate and support long-term integrated development projects, especially in the rural areas. Accelerating human



development and economic growth through such projects has been a priority for the Queen.

One of Queen Noor's main objectives has been to provide rural women and men with access to appropriate training to enable them to participate in decision-making at all levels of the development process.

In February of this year, Queen Noor participated in the meeting of the International Steering Committee on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women, which was held in Brussels in preparation for the 1995 World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing.

On the national level, the Queen continued her efforts with several concerned officials and representatives to identify means of developing the Petra and Ajlun regions in environmentally-sensitive ways that respond to emerging cultural and tourism needs.

Queen Noor holds a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University. She has received honorary doctorates from several universities, as well as international awards for her achievements in promoting human development and global understanding.

The Queen is also patron and honorary chairperson of several national and international organizations.

Prime minister, JBA discuss impact of regional development on economy

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday received at his office the president and members of the board of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA).

Dr. Majali outlined at the meeting the latest political developments in the region and the expected impact they will have on the Jordanian economy.

The prime minister expressed full understanding of the private sector's demand to have representatives participating in reviewing and revising laws governing investments and financial and tax statutes in Jordan.

Dr. Majali stressed that there was still ample space for the private sector to contribute to expanding infrastructure and to exploit investment opportunities away from the traditional locations

inside the main cities, especially Amman.

He said each of the Kingdom's governorates has its own aspects and the private and public sectors have to exploit that in the best possible manner.

Dr. Majali and the association members agreed to hold an open meeting soon for an exchange of views between officials representing the private and public sectors.

Meanwhile, association president Hamdi Tabaa Monday received at the association premises a delegation representing the Japanese International Studies Institute.

Mr. Tabaa briefed the two-member delegation on the association's domestic and international activities and welcomed opening new channels of cooperation between private sector establishments in the two countries.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday meets with Jordanian Businessmen's Association board members at his office (Petra photo)

Mr. Tabaa also reviewed scopes of cooperation between Jordan and Japan in industrial fields.

He said Japanese industries can benefit from the cheap and skilled workforce in Jordan to establish industries that would not only

meet the needs of the Jordanian market, but also neighboring markets, and called for having Jordan as an industrial centre in the region.

Mr. Tabaa said that Japan and Jordan can cooperate in pharmaceutical industries, one of Jordan's growing in-

dustries, food processing, clothing and leather manufacturing and advanced technological industries.

He said Korean companies have already started launching joint ventures in Jordan and stressed that the door is open for Japanese companies.

Iraq starts AIDS testing of travellers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Iraqi authorities have introduced obligatory AIDS tests for everyone entering the country through the Jordanian-Iraqi borders, local reports confirmed by travellers said Monday.

They said every traveller entering Iraq through the Terebil border post from Jordan was asked to undergo a test at a centre set up near the post.

Iraqi nationals and Arabs who hold residency papers for Iraq are charged 10 Iraqi dinars each for the test while all others have to pay \$50 in foreign currency, they said.

Those who are found to test positive for HIV — the virus that leads to AIDS — are turned away and others are given a certificate valid for six months.

The border arrangement

replaces a six-year-old system under which every foreigner visiting Iraq had to visit Iraqi health ministry centres to undergo free AIDS tests if they wanted to extend their stay in the country.

At first, the period of stay without undergoing a test was one month, then it was cut down to 15 days and then to five days.

The Arabic-language daily Al Ra'i said many Jordanian students, apparently going to Iraq for the first time after enrolling in universities there, had to return home from the border since they did not have the required amount to pay for the test.

The arrangement went into force in mid-August, Al Ra'i said.

Iraqi embassy spokesman Adel Ibrahim was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that he did not have official confirmation on the

arrangement, but added it was "possible and logical" that his country would bar entry to people with AIDS.

He confirmed that the Iraqi government has started charging for the AIDS test to cover its costs.

Routine AIDS tests detect the presence of antibodies that shield the body against the HIV virus. However, testing positive does not necessarily mean a person has AIDS since it can take years to develop.

Iraq was among the first Arab countries to introduce an obligatory AIDS test for all visitors.

No figures are available on the number of AIDS deaths or cases in Iraq.

Visitors to Iraq say prostitution has become rampant in the country, whose people are suffering from a sweeping trade embargo for the past four years.



ON THE LABOUR FRONT: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday receives at his office Director General of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO) Baker Mahmoud Rasoul who is currently visiting Jordan to attend a seminar on defining the new trends of the Arab labour culture. Dr. Majali was briefed by Mr. Rasoul on the objectives of the seminar and topics discussed. The prime minister emphasized that the government is keen to support the ALO's activities, expressing hope that the seminar will achieve its objectives. Minister of Labour Khalid Ghazawi (left) also attended the meeting. The seminar, which was opened Sunday in Amman, continued its works Monday by discussing several working papers (Petra photo)

Israeli press group proposes joint T.V. station with Jordan

The Jerusalem Post

A proposal to create a joint Israeli-Jordanian television station has been submitted to the relevant ministries and the head of the Israeli negotiating team by two members of the Israel Association of the Periodical Press.

The two, IAPP Chairman Joseph Frankel and David Lavie, chair of IAPP's inter-

national relations committee, suggest establishing a channel similar to Arte, the joint German-French station.

"One of the ways of drawing together the two countries which have suffered enmity for generations is to expose each of them to the other's culture. In the age of electronic media, it seems the most efficient means of doing this is via television, and particularly by a television sta-

tion jointly and simultaneously broadcasting programmes in both countries which express the cultures of the two peoples," said Messrs Frankel and Lavie in the proposal.

Arte was founded in 1990 to broadcast arts programmes in France and Germany, following the initiative of President Francois Mitterrand and Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

WHAT'S GOING ON

★ French film entitled "The Neighbour" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 19:30.

★ Children's play entitled "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 18:00.

★ Performance of Taiwanese folkloric dances at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

★ Festival of artistic works (including songs, plays, and an exhibition of various commodities) at the open theatre, the Royal Cultural Centre (5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.).

★ Poetry recital by Muriel Barghout at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luwdeh at 18:30.

★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 17:00.

★ Children's school needs exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 noon-11:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

★ Exhibition of painting by Mohammad Jundi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed by Artist" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of new paintings by Dina Shamouni at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.).

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa Art Gallery in Fuhls (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 824932).

Young medical student brings home update on AIDS

By Rima Coribawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As'ad Abdel Rahman, Director General of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, invited a young fourth year medical student, Rami Jada'an to lecture on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) at the foundation Sunday evening.

Mr. Jada'an's lecture dealt with theories on the history of the disease, how it actually spread, the nature of the responsible virus, registered cases available worldwide, as well as existing partial treatment.

"There are social and human aspects in addition to medical ones on this subject," said Dr. Abdel Rahman.

In his introduction, Dr. Abdel Rahman presented Mr. Jada'an as an extremely knowledgeable Jordanian medical student who was born in Germany in 1972, and who, having developed a keen interest in AIDS since his secondary school years, has given numerous valuable lectures on the subject at many well-recognised European universities.

Mr. Jada'an is currently

studying at Vienna University, assisting in voluntary research work on a "Danish-Austrian Immun" project for discovering means to stop the transmission of HIV from a carrier mother to her innocent child and is a volunteer at the AIDS-Help Vienna organisation.

One of the most popular theories on the origin of this disease states that it was first observed by American and European medical teams who noticed that the number of white blood cells (WBCs) — which are responsible for human immunity — per one cubic millimetre of blood taken from sufferers of the "slim disease" (as it was called at the start of the 20th century 1915-1920) in central Africa was a hundredth that of a normal person. "People with slim disease only had a very thin skin layer covering their protruding bones and were obviously dehydrated," said Mr. Jada'an.

Research on this disease was not resumed until the year 1981 when physicians Robert Gallo in the U.S. and Luc Montagnier in France simultaneously discovered the virus responsible for the decrease in

WBC numbers. The two doctors met in 1984, but, according to Mr. Jada'an, it was not until 1987 that they agreed on one name for the virus, HIV. Naturally, this provided the link between AIDS and the slim disease, which only manifests itself at an advanced stage of carrying the virus, said Mr. Jada'an.

So theoretically speaking, said Mr. Jada'an, AIDS started in central Africa although the World Health Organisation (WHO) rejects this theory strictly emphasising "the fact" that the origin of the disease is unknown.

The disease then spread to America, Europe and Australia from Haiti, according to this theory. Haitians, who migrated to central Africa in the mid-19th century, returned to their West Indian country after 1950. Having brought the virus to their homeland, they initiated its spread to other continents as Haiti became an attractive spot for tourists from all other countries, with the exception of the former Soviet Union, according to Mr. Jada'an.

In the U.S. HIV carriers numbered about 2,000 in the early 80s, but the figure

rose to 70,000 by the late 80s, and currently, over 250,000 people carry the virus, according to Mr. Jada'an.

Worldwide more than 77 per cent of the carriers have been attacked through sexual contact (homosexual or heterosexual), 13 per cent through intravenous injections, whether by blood transfusions or drug abuse, 6 per cent from pregnant women to their children or by breast-feeding, and the remaining 4 per cent via unknown means, which can be slightly worrying, added Mr. Jada'an.

It is important, he said, to distinguish between an HIV carrier and an AIDS sufferer. "Not every carrier is infected with the disease, but every infected person carries the virus," said Mr. Jada'an, adding that there is an average of 40 million carriers worldwide, but only three million are so far infected.

The viral cells have protein spikes (GP41) and protein covers (GP120), which have great affinity to protein spikes present on certain WBCs (CD4), and so when the GP120 adhere to the CD4, the exposed GP41 penetrate the WBC,

creating a suitable path for the genetic information in the virus to undergo vital processes in the WBC, explained Mr. Jada'an.

This results in the reproduction of up to 4,000 viral cells that cause the bursting of the WBC, which explodes, leaving each viral cell to attack other WBCs and so on.

According to Mr. Jada'an, this can take years to occur in certain bodies because the activity of viral proteins depends on the surrounding media conditions (in the blood) which can vary from one person to another. So reproduction of viral cells can be very slow, regular or explosive, depending on the system.

Thus carriers of the virus can be categorised in a pyramid of numbers, according to Mr. Jada'an.

At the bottom of the pyramid, the largest number of carriers remain well (for a maximum of 10-12 years) before acquiring persistent generalised lymphadenopathy (PGL) which causes the swelling of lymphatic nodes in the neck, the armpits, the upper limbs and behind the knees.

PGL can be fatal de-

pending on the strength of the person's immune system.

On the other hand, it may last a maximum of 3-5 years before AIDS related complexes (ARC) are suffered higher up in the pyramid.

These complexes are detected by fungal attachments to the tongue, 10 per cent weight loss in a period of one month, continuous fever and sweating.

ARC victims either die quickly or live for a maximum of 5 years, again depending on their immunity (i.e., the original number of WBCs in their bodies).

The apex of the pyramid includes the AIDS cases which are subjected to opportunistic diseases such as an aggressive form of pneumonia, slim disease, a specific form of skin cancer, brain mal-functions as well as premature aging. These give patients a maximum of 1-2 years before death.

Partial treatment of the disease involves injecting sufferers with azidothymidine (AZT) which deactivates the virus, but unfortunately damages some of the brain tissues in the process, explained Mr. Jada'an. "That is why it

should only be administered to either advanced AIDS cases or sufferers at the earliest stages when they are tested HIV positive," he said.

The difficulty in treating the virus lies mainly in that it continuously changes shape. "Vaccines are very specific and so hundreds of diverse viral shapes can only be subdued by hundreds of different suitable vaccines," said Mr. Jada'an.

Also HIV tests give positive results only after three months from contracting the virus. "This is because viral cells can hide under dead bodies in the blood, making it difficult for antibodies to detect their presence," said Mr. Jada'an.

In response to superstitious beliefs that AIDS is a scourge to homosexuals for their unorthodox sexual behaviour, Mr. Jada'an said, "the number of HIV carriers through homosexuality is decreasing by 95 per cent." But via heterosexuality, he said, numbers are increasing by more than 75%, especially by women, worldwide including Arab countries.

Theoretically, viral cells present in human sperm can become mutated when

surrounded by an abnormal environment, during homosexual activities, and so become very hostile, said Mr. Jada'an. This is probably why homosexuality has been associated with the spread of the virus, he added.

But, unconventional heterosexual inclinations also cause transmission of the virus, "seeing as it dwells in all the body fluids and tissues, not just the blood, even though it can only reproduce in the blood," Mr. Jada'an said.

The virus must be present in certain concentrations to be infective. So saliva or mosquito bites do not cause viral spread, according to Mr. Jada'an.

"Although it is fair to say that AIDS can be suffered by anyone anywhere, so far there is no medical proof that it can be transmitted via touching, bad-shaking, the air, sneezing, swimming, sauna, sports, sharing offices, bathrooms or showers or domestic pets," said Mr. Jada'an.

Therefore, social discrimination against AIDS victims cannot be based on a sound scientific or logical foundation, Mr. Jada'an concluded.

Coast Guard seeks reinforcements to help with Cuban refugee influx

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP) — Cubans clinging to makeshift rafts drifted north in record numbers over the weekend, forcing the Coast Guard to call in reinforcements to help comb the treacherous Straits of Florida for refugees.

Despite President Bill Clinton's decision to detain those intercepted at sea at the U.S. navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the exodus "doesn't appear to be slowing down," Coast Guard spokesman Gene Macestas said Sunday.

Volunteer pilots helping search for people at sea said there was no way the Coast Guard could reach all the rafts making the 140-kilometre voyage under the scorching summer sun.

"We have in excess of 300 rafts in the Straits of Florida, the rafts keep coming," said Jose Basulto, co-founder of Brothers to the Rescue, a pilots' group. "The likelihood of life sustaining conditions in a raft is usually no more than four days. In the next few hours many people — hundreds of people — are likely to die unless something in a rush is done."

"There is an emergency, there is a dire emergency," said Sonny Dorrbecker of the Cuban American Pilots Association.

On Sunday, at least 1,293 refugees were picked up, the most in a single day since 1980, when 125,000 Cubans flooded to Florida in five months during the Mariel

boat lift, the Coast Guard said.

The numbers have surged since Aug. 5, when Cuban leader Fidel Castro threatened to open his coast and the United States responded by vowing not to allow another Mariel.

"It appears likely we'll be picking them up for quite a while," Mr. Macestas said. "It's unfortunate — you'd hope the president's policy would dissuade these individuals from taking to the seas in these rickety crafts."

Helicopters, planes, cutters and crew have been brought in from as far away as Boston to help handle the influx, said Coast Guard Lt. Commander Jim McPherson. He declined to discuss specifics.

"We're extremely busy, but we're carrying out our mission," he said. "If the Coast Guard wasn't there, there'd be hundreds of deaths."

In the past, refugees from Cuba were virtually assured of asylum. That changed Thursday with Mr. Clinton's announcement that refugees who reach U.S. shores will be detained indefinitely, and those picked up at sea will be taken to Guantanamo Bay.

Word of the new policy had not yet reached many on the Communist island.

Onelia Rodriguez Hernandez said she wouldn't have left if she had known her family would be detained. The 60-year-old woman went

to sea on a small fishing boat Thursday night with her husband, three children and an 11-year-old granddaughter.

"The journey was very hard, very scary," she said. They were picked up by the Coast Guard and she was separated from her family to be taken to a hospital for treatment of a stomach ailment. She was released Saturday to the Cuban Refugee Transit Center near Key West, where she waited near tears for word on where her relatives had been taken.

Mrs. Rodriguez said her family decided to try the crossing after seeing the Castro government wasn't stopping people from leaving. Despite Mr. Clinton's order, she thinks Cubans will keep coming, seeking a better life in the United States.

During the Mariel boat lift, most refugees came over in seafaring boats that sailed from Florida to pick them up. But the Clinton administration began threatening this month to arrest any Americans who travel to Cuba to ferry refugees.

A middle-aged woman in a wheelchair at Cuba's Altamira Beach said she counted 50 rafts that left after dark Saturday as she watched, disappointed, from shore.

A 31-year-old man who identified himself only as Pedro said he and five others were forced back to Cuba when an inner tube supporting their raft punctured. He said he didn't care about the

new U.S. policy and his group was trying to buy another inner tube in Havana.

"What do I risk by staying here?" he said.

The sheer number of tiny crafts attempting the crossing means many, many more rescues.

"There's absolutely no way the Coast Guard can pick up all of the refugee vessels that are on the water," said Thomas Van Hare, chairman of Freedom Flight International, a volunteer group that helps spot rafters.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced Saturday a no-fly zone over a good portion of the Florida Straits for safety reasons. Mr. Dorrbecker said, making it more difficult for his pilots to alert ships to rafts.

On Sunday, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta raised the distant possibility of a naval blockade to pressure Mr. Castro.

"That's obviously one of the options that we would look at in the future as we see whether or not Castro begins to make some legitimate movement toward democracy," Mr. Panetta said on ABC's This Week With David Brinkley.

Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Panetta was referring to blocking trade from other countries to Cuba. They said the idea on a long list of options awaiting Mr. Clinton down the road.



Ricardo Barzani (left) of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) reads through a list of more than three hundred Cuban refugees that are being held at the Krome Detention Centre in Miami. The INS began allowing family members to visit refugees at the camp after protests by several hundred Cuban Americans (AFP photo).

Clinton wins victory in crime bill passage

WASHINGTON (R) — Bill Clinton's embattled presidency got a badly-needed boost as the House of Representatives passed a crime bill, but the measure now moves on to perhaps an even tougher fight in the Senate.

The measure passed the House 235-195 Sunday in what Mr. Clinton called a "victory for all law-abiding Americans."

But it was also a success for him and for the bipartisanship which resurrected the bill 10 days after 58 Democrats and 11 Republicans seemed to have killed it off by voting to block debate.

Mr. Clinton snatched victory from the jaws of defeat by compromising with Republicans, chiefly by cutting back crime prevention programmes they opposed in the original bill and including some proposals on punishment favoured by Republicans.

In the final vote, Republicans support jumped to 46, more than offsetting a loss of six additional Democrats.

Mr. Clinton restrained himself from crowing like the "comeback kid," as he was dubbed during his up-and-down 1992 presidential campaign, and appeared in a sombre mood as he spoke to reporters in the Oval Office after the vote.

"Tonight Democrats and Republicans joined together and they acted. They reached across party lines to pass the toughest and smartest crime bill in the history of the United States," he said.

"This is the way Washington ought to work, and I hope it will work this way in the future," the president said.

The bill puts 100,000 more police on the beat through the year 2000 and nearly \$10 billion for prison construction.

It includes a provision requiring lifetime imprisonment for three-time violent offenders — the so-called "three strikes and you're out" provision.

It also makes more than 60 federal crimes subject to the death penalty and tightens restrictions on so-called sexual predators, allowing law authorities to notify the communities into which they are freed.

Its price tag was cut by more than \$3 billion, to \$30 billion, in negotiations that went through the weekend. But the bill remained anathema to conservative Republicans, who continued to attack what they called the "pork" in the bill and charged that it did not do enough to deal with criminals.

Mr. Clinton has made the crime bill a centerpiece of his legislative goals and had been telephoning members of the house all day Sunday for support during the debate.

But while the bill was important to the president on its own merits, approval was also considered critical if health care reform, the centerpiece of his domestic agenda, was to have any hope of passage in this Congress.

Health care reform has already been on the ropes for weeks in Congress. Mr. Clinton said Sunday he hoped the spirit of moderation and bipartisanship which helped rescue the crime bill could be transferred to the health care debate.

"What gets Washington all jammed up is when ideology and labels overtake what is the clear reality of a circumstance. And I think that would be possible in the health care debate," he said.

"But everybody would have to be willing to sort of leave their preconceived positions at the door, at least be prepared to moderate them some in order to achieve the goal that we all say we want," he said.

He refused to say whether this meant he'd support a "mainstream" bipartisan health care plan offered in the Senate Friday.

Fewer movies for Chinese buffs

BEIJING (AFP) — The crisis facing China's film industry, amid a plummeting box office, has come to a head in the countryside where a 40-year-old film distribution network is close to disintegration, a report said Sunday.

According to the China Youth Daily, the distribution system set up by the Communists in the 1950s to disseminate propaganda films throughout the country took a pounding last year, with the number of film-screening units plunging by 61 per cent to 17,500 compared to 1992. At the same time, box office takings in rural areas fell by 46 million yuan (\$5.3 million) as the number of filmgoers dropped by 1.5 billion.

In remote provinces such as far northwestern Xinjiang and Qinghai, 80 per cent of the original film-screening units have already closed down, the newspaper said, adding that many children under the age of 10 did not even know what a film was. 1993 was one of the worst on record for the Chinese film industry, with audience figures and box office takings nationwide plunging 60 per cent and 35 per cent respectively from the previous year. According to industry analysts, the main reason for the fall in attendance was the poor quality of local productions. The only success stories of 1993 were films co-produced with Hong Kong financing. But that trend was cut short this year following a government decision to reduce cooperation from overseas, limit the number of co-productions and ban the creation of joint venture production companies on the mainland.

Parents arrested for letting 7-year-old drive

HONG KONG (AFP) — A couple who tried to demonstrate that their seven-year-old son could drive a Mercedes-Benz now face court charges of allowing a minor to operate a vehicle without a licence, police said Monday.

Shek Lin-Sang, 46, and his wife Cheung Ling-Ling, 48, were arrested Sunday after their son Michael drove their Mercedes-Benz in a carpark at a luxury residential estate.

The proud parents were reportedly trying to prove to a local television station that their son was Hong Kong's youngest driver. The pair, who were released on bail of 500 Hong Kong dollars (\$64) each, will appear in court on Sept. 15.

Indonesian hermit shaves off 2.8-metre-long hair

JAKARTA (AFP) — An aged Muslim hermit, whose flowing locks exceeded his height, had his head shaved after being told in a dream to have a government official cut his hair, an official said Monday.

Bakti Saiman, 77, received his haircut from district chief Mohammad Zein Saturday in Pandeglang regency in West Java, on the anniversary of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, said Mulyono, a member of the chief's staff. Saiman's hair had grown to 2.8 metres (9.4 feet) long since a wise man told him in a dream 35 years ago not to cut it. The same wise man appeared to tell him to get it cut. Saiman, who guards the tomb of an early 20th century Muslim leader behind his hut in the village of Banjarsari, has also only washed his hair once a year on the prophet's anniversary.

Japan population growth at record low

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's population growth continued to slow down in the year to last March, with the annual growth rate hitting yet another low of 0.29 per cent, the Home Affairs Ministry said. The population totaled 124,322,801 at the end of March, up 365,343 from a year earlier. The growth rate has been shrinking since 1973 and stood at 0.3 per cent in the preceding year, which was the previous record low.

The ministry's latest survey, released at the weekend, showed there were 61,086,642 men and 63,236,159 women in Japan as of March 31. The number of elderly people aged 65 or higher came to 17,239,327, accounting for 13.87 per cent of the total population. The annual survey also indicated a further shrinkage in size of Japanese families.

Tutu steps in as Lesotho mediator

MASERU (AFP) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu Monday stepped in as international mediator in the strife-torn southern African kingdom of Lesotho as this market-town capital ground to a halt on the first day of a two-day national strike.

John Allen, spokesman for the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, said the South African cleric had been invited to mediate in the country's deepening crisis by Lesotho church leaders.

Arch. Tutu will spend a day in the tiny mountainous country, known as the Switzerland of Africa, which was ruled by Britain for more than a century until inde-

pendence in 1966.

Lesotho, a country of 1.8 million completely surrounded by South Africa, has been in turmoil since Wednesday, when King Letsie III dissolved parliament and ousted the government of Prime Minister Ntsen Mokhele.

Five people have been killed in clashes between security forces and anti-monarchists, who called a strike Monday and Tuesday in protest at the royal decree.

Lesotho's donor agencies, notably the United States, Britain and other Commonwealth countries, have cut off or have threatened to withhold aid to the kingdom unless King Letsie reverses his deci-

sion.

The mood of the capital was sullen Monday, with crowds milling about the streets and troops and police patrolling in greater numbers than usual.

With no public transport and banks and shops shut and sidewalks traders closed for the day, a tense, unnatural atmosphere replaced the usual marketplace bustle in the town centre.

In the surrounding townships, people seemed content to sit in the wintry sun, wrapped against the cold in traditional Basotho blankets, rather than venture into the potential flashpoints in the town centre.

China marks Deng's 90th birthday

BEIJING (R) — While China's chief architect of reform, Deng Xiaoping, turned 90 Monday, the world's largest surviving Communist Party is hoping his ideas will outlast him.

The country's top newspaper, the People's Daily, splashed a decade-old picture of a vibrant, laughing and smoking Deng on its front page, seemingly trying to supplant the image of a gaunt, frail and shaking man left by the paramount leader's last television appearance in February.

An editorial lavishly lauded Mr. Deng's reforms, which set China's 1.2 billion people free to get rich, and said they ranked in importance with Marxism, Leninism and the thoughts of the revolutionary leader Mao Tse-tung.

"Deng Xiaoping's theory of constructing socialism with Chinese characteristics is a glorious banner and a scientific guide for realising the great 100-year plan (to modernise China) and to reach our magnificent target," it said.

"It is the pillar of our people's vigor and development and is the most precious spiritual treasure of the whole party and the whole people."

China's Communist Party has staked its future on Mr. Deng's plan to allow greater economic freedom while maintaining absolute power.

Months to a full-scale return to politics.

He insisted he was not seeking to be leader of the proposed new movement, but pointedly declined to rule out standing for the Russian presidency in the elections due in 1996.

The former Kremlin leader, revered in the West as the man who broke the Communist hold on power, has in Russia respect for his historical role but little apparent political support.

But his latent stature was underlined by the hostility of the interviewer and the fact that Itogi, which is generally favourable to the current liberal establishment, apparently went out of its way to try to discredit him.

Presenter Yevgeny Kiselyov immediately cited an opinion poll showing only three per cent support for Mr. Gorbachev as presidential candidate. Itogi then broadcast an interview with leading economist Grigory Yavlinsky criticising Mr. Gorbachev's record.

The godfather of perestroika and glasnost said there was a lot of interest in Russia in his views and not too much attention should be paid to opinion polls and newspapers.

Mr. Gorbachev was bitter about the men who launched an attempt to overthrow him on Aug. 19, 1991, and said he would advise parliament to repeat the amnesty it granted last February and reopen their trial.

"My personal opinion is that these are people without conscience or honour," he said.

The former Soviet vice-president, prime minister, defence minister, interior minister and KGB chief took power for three days in a half-hearted, blundering coup. After three days it collapsed and the ringleaders were arrested.

The coup precipitated the break-up of the Soviet Union into its 15 constituent republics four months later.

The amnesty ringleaders have begun defending their actions more and more forcefully in recent months, saying

Cambodia orders media away from hostages

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's first Prime Minister Monday ordered all journalists and diplomats out of southern Kampot province where Khmer Rouge guerrillas are holding three Westerners hostage.

"Not only journalists but all diplomats are to be withdrawn from Kampot," Prince Norodom Ranariddh told reporters outside parliament. "I'm not against the press but we want this case to be resolved quietly."

The Cambodian and foreign governments have criticised some media coverage, saying it may endanger the three hostages.

Prince Ranariddh said he was hopeful of a positive outcome within two or three days if media attention were

curtailed.

On Sunday he lashed out at the governments of Australia, France and Britain for what he called "illogical" behaviour and defended continuing military pressure on the insurgents.

He said the three governments would not endorse paying a ransom but also opposed military action to pressure the Khmer Rouge captors.

Western governments, he noted, frequently used military action to free hostages in cases where a ransom was not paid.

"The hostages said please, please, please pay the ransom. Your governments said no, no, no. I'm very upset. I'm very fed up," Prince Ranariddh said Sunday. "All

of you countries should simply shut up."

Prince Ranariddh Monday criticised the media and Western governments for giving him seemingly impossible guidelines to free the hostages.

"Please don't tell me 'no ransom' but no military action. It will be impossible for us to resolve this question."

He blasted the Khmer Rouge captors as "political monsters" and said he had agonised over how to deal with the issue.

Prince Ranariddh said a senior army commander and deputy chief-of-staff, Lieutenant-General Nheak Bun Chhay, would leave for Kampot Monday to supervise hostage negotiations.

Bangladesh Navy joins rescue efforts

DHAKA (R) — The Bangladesh Navy was called in Monday to help find more than 300 people feared drowned when a crowded river ferry capsized in one of the country's worst shipping disasters.

The ferry, carrying about 400 passengers and goods, overturned Saturday while trying to berth at Chandpur terminal, on the Meghna River, 100 kilometres from the Bangladesh capital Dhaka.

Police said about 60 passengers were rescued but chances of finding further survivors among the more than 300 still missing were remote.

"Now we strongly suspect that not even one of the missing people is alive," a police officer told Reuters by telephone Monday.

"The navy is the last resort in a continuous but fruitless search. We have not been able to trace the sunken vessel yet," police officer Aminul Islam said.

Islam said the Meghna was at least 60 ft (18 metres) deep near Chandpur and the ferry could have been swept miles (kilometres) downstream by fierce currents.

Navigation officials said navy boats have yet to arrive.



A survivor of the ferry mishap in eastern Bangladesh tries to identify the body of a boy found about three kilometres from the site of the tragedy. So far six bodies have been found after the MY Dinar-2 capsized off the eastern river port town of Chandpur leaving up to 250 people missing, feared dead. The ferry was yet to be traced (AFP photo).

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

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Danger in high seas

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton's decision to escalate pressure on Cuba by adopting a string of measures and actions against it stands to hurt the Cuban people themselves first and the Castro regime second. The Cubans who find themselves caught up in the web of the recent increased tension between their country and Washington could end up paying dearly for this development.

Both Havana and Washington are wittingly or unwittingly playing with the innocent lives of Cubans accustomed to receive political asylum in the U.S. if their dangerous sea trek across the Caribbean succeeds. The abrupt decision of the U.S. president to reverse a 28-year policy of granting automatic political asylum to such Cubans has left the affected people stranded in the middle of nowhere. In real terms, Cubans fleeing their country in search of promised freedom have become pawns in a battle of wits between President Clinton and Castro. Surely there must be a better way to deal with the prospect of mass exodus of Cubans from their country. The most effective way is to make their lives in their own country more humane and tolerable. This requires both political and economic reforms. While the recommended democratisation of the country can best be introduced by the country itself, the economic reforms cannot be expected to materialise as long as Cuba is subject to a U.S. embargo. This calls for a two-pronged policy that would continue to apply pressure for the democratisation of Cuba while at the same time relaxing the economic pressures against Cubans who opt to wager their lives in pursuit of not only political freedom but also economic opportunities. After five decades of trade sanctions against Cuba, it is high time to acknowledge its culpability as the principal reason for the Cuban exodus.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAYI Arabic daily Monday described the Jordanian-Palestinian relations as a tree branching over the two banks of the Jordan River. Based on this concept, the paper said in its editorial, His Majesty King Hussein clearly depicts the relationship tying the Hashemite family with Jerusalem in an interview with the German Der Spiegel magazine. The paper quoted the King as saying that this relationship dates back to before the establishment of Israel and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The saving of Jerusalem from the Zionists in 1948 by Jordan which was destined to be a means to unite the two banks of the Jordan River in 1950 is out a live evidence of these historic relations between Jordan and Palestine in good times and bad times, the paper said. Hence, we understand from the King's statements to the German magazine the need to separate between protecting the holy places and political differences because the protection of holy places is the duty of every Muslim leader, but as for political differences, they will be resolved one day, said the paper. It added that that is the reason why Jordan was always the first to extend assistance and support to the Palestinians and share with them the journey of pain and dream over the long history of the Arab-Israeli conflict and has always supported the free choice of the Palestinians. Therefore, we look forward to the success of the ongoing talks between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides away from tension, it said.

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily also addressed Jordanian-Palestinian relations in its editorial Monday. The paper said that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has stressed, following the Jordanian-Palestinian round of talks Sunday, that these relations are so deeply-rooted that no differences in views can separate what was united by geography, history and the common interests of both peoples. No doubt Jordan's welcoming the resumption of negotiations with the first Palestinian delegation arriving from the self-rule areas conforms with Jordan's continued calls for establishing the best relations with the Palestinian side and is harmonious with Jordan's inclination to support every step that might enhance these relations, the paper said.

The View from Fourth Circle

Democracy and peace: Spectator or participatory sports?

By Rami G. Khouri

THE PACE of events related to the peace-making process with Israel has been so fast in the last month that most people are startled by the historic developments taking place before their eyes, but otherwise apparently rather ambiguous in their political sentiments. Predictably, there are limited groups of people that are either enthusiastically for or against the peace process as it has unfolded. The majority of Jordanian and other Arabs, however, seems peculiarly noncommittal.

This transitional political psychology that we witness is telling in itself; some of its particularities are worth analysing for what they tell us about the condition of much of the Arab World, and about what we need to do to assure ourselves a better future. I would suggest several reasons for the prevailing hesitancy of so many Jordanians and other Arabs regarding the peace breakthroughs.

1. The nature of Arab decision-making throughout the peace talks — not only this month but this decade and half century — has not promoted the sort of democratic, grassroots dialogue and consensus that are required for genuinely enthusiastic support for the peace talks. All the Arab governments and power elites have followed a similar pattern of making the big decisions after consultations among a handful of people, and then announcing the decisions to their people. Participation in the peace-related decision-making process by parliaments, grassroots organisations, an open media and other basic institutions of governance has been astounding for its near total absence.

Predictably, therefore, both opposition to and support for the decisions have been perfunctory and mechanical. For most Arabs, watching the peace process unfold is like watching the World Cup — it generates much interest and occasional flashes of passion, but it is, in the final analysis for most individual Arabs, a spectator sport, and not a participatory sport. This reinforces the negative sentiment that has plagued our region for hundreds of years: Individuals are conditioned to feel that they do not participate in their own destiny and cannot share in the decisions that will determine the future quality of life of their children.

This increases the sense of political alienation that has hampered national development throughout the Arab region in the second half of this century. It also feeds the other reactions that we witness today, notably in the field of national identity, culture and economics.

2. In the last year, many Jordanians and Palestinians have reacted to the peace-making process by alternating sentiments of confidence and fear. In Palestine, optimism and pessimism routinely characterise the public mood. Some Palestinians are convinced that Palestinian national rights will be achieved in due course; others fear that Yasser Arafat and his guys have relegated the Palestinian national cause to perpetual municipal glory.

For six months after the Oslo accord was signed, many Jordanians were fearful about the future of the country. They saw how quickly Jordan's regional role and bilateral ties were sidetracked and marginalised because of the attention given to Palestine and Syria. Consequently, when Jordan reacted by vigorously reactivating its role in the peace process, it explained this primarily in terms of protecting

Jordanian national interests and safeguarding the rights and welfare of Jordanians. Jordanians felt that Jordan was not only pressured or ignored, but also threatened.

Both the Palestinian and Jordanian reactions suggest that we are dealing here not just with issues of rights, justice and national wellbeing. We are dealing with existential realities and fears, reflecting the notion that countries and communities have to work hard not just to improve their national condition, but sometimes even to assure its perpetuation. This partly reflects the changing flows of contemporary political and economic forces; but it is mainly rooted in the mass perception that many modern Middle Eastern countries, being born of unpredictable historical development, remain vulnerable to the unsentimental verdict of this region's rich and ongoing dynamism.

3. It is fascinating and slightly troubling to note the economic and cultural dimensions of ordinary people's reactions to the peace process. Most people seem to fear that Israel's military dominance and political strengths in this region in recent decades will now be translated into a dual economic and cultural onslaught that will overrun and subjugate the Arab World.

Objective facts would suggest that this is far-fetched, because a) Israel has neither the cultural depth, dynamism and distinctiveness, nor the economic power to dominate the Arab region, and b) the rich Arab culture and the large Arab economy are both on the verge of a major reawakening, as this region slowly sheds its legacy of autocracy and authoritarianism and instead taps its indigenous strengths through more humane and participatory systems of governance and more rational, productive and sustainable economic systems.

The fears that Jordanians, Palestinians and other Arab express, however, are very real. They reflect a profound sense of vulnerability that is also rooted in the ugly legacy of Arab autocratic political rule. The average individual Arab, having been socially and politically conditioned for most of this century to obey orders and to clap on cue, is now politically and psychologically unable to rise to the challenge of national self-assertion in the face of an Israeli state that is, on the basis of objective criteria, near economic basket-case surviving mainly through militarism and dependency.

There are many opportunities for Arabs and Israelis to work together for their common economic good; there are also many opportunities for economic, infrastructural and business complementarities that could be exploited. The Arabs have enormous resources that could give them economic and political leverage — markets, energy and raw materials, entrepreneurial skills, strategic geography — if they do not collapse in a heap of national psychological trauma in the face of the first real opportunity this century to realise their full national potential in a region whose artificial barriers are slowly crumbling.

4. The most intriguing Arab reaction to me is the fear of our culture being dominated or destroyed by Israel. I find this astounding, because Arab-Islamic culture is so rich and powerful, our social traditions and communal value systems are so deep and strong, that it is inconceivable to me that we could be threatened in any way by the confused hodge-podge of Israeli "culture". The real threat we face is not from

Israeli national dynamism or predatory policies; it is from our own cultural lassitude, national lack of confidence and social and economic inertia.

These are not intrinsic to Arab-Islamic culture, for our culture has been a world leader several times in history, in fields such as morality, economy, technology and in sciences and stable governance. There is nothing wrong with Arab-Islamic culture that some humane decent political Arab cannot cure. The reasons for the widespread Arab culture cannot cure. The reasons for the widespread Arab culture cannot cure. The reasons for the widespread Arab culture cannot cure.

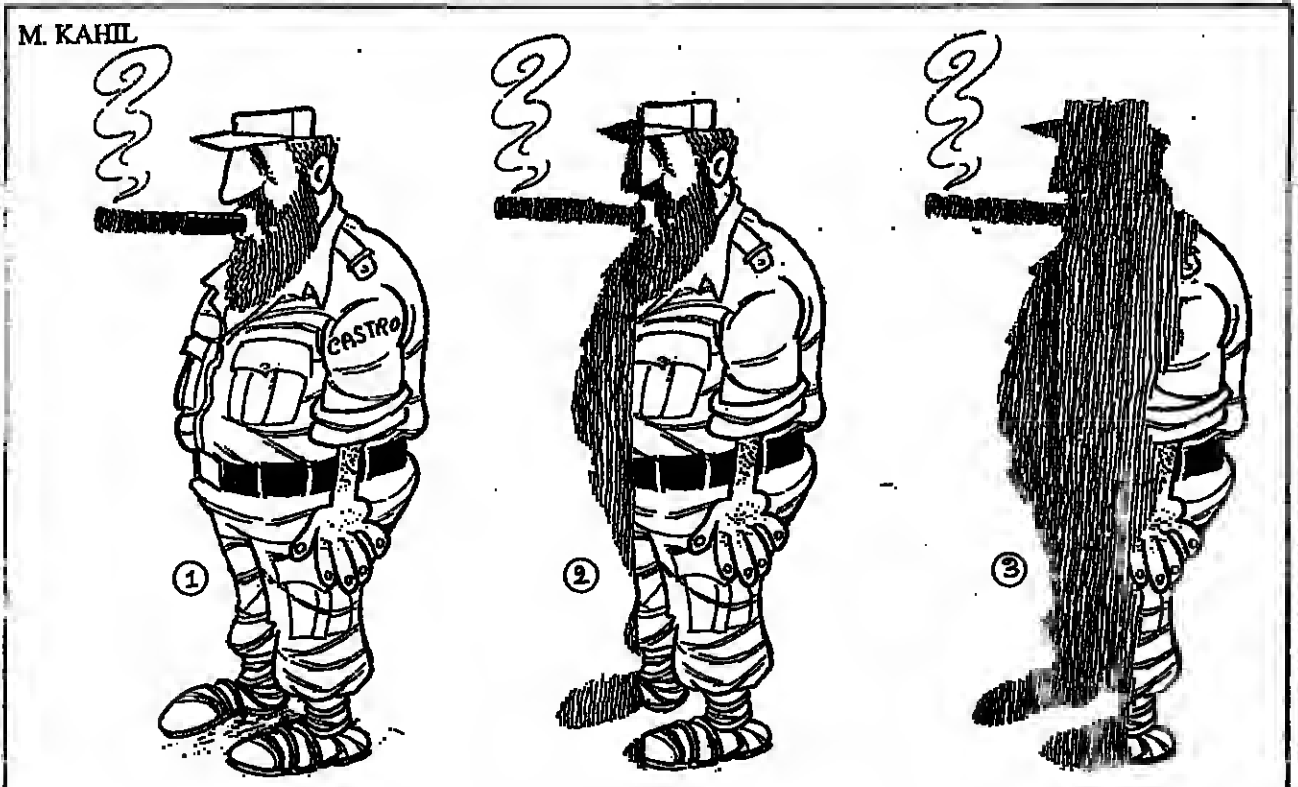
All of these factors explain the peculiar hesitant reaction of most ordinary Arabs to the peace process that unfolds before us on a daily basis. People are afraid to be bappy. They are hesitant to be proud. They are nearly unable to generate the normal human reactions that are required to face up to the enormous historic possibilities and opportunities that stare us in the face.

The antidote to all of these constraints and problems is very simple: It is the need to give back to the men, women and children of our Arab Nation the feeling that they are not merely an audience in an intriguing spectator sport, but a powerful and experienced team that has to be actively involved in the game at hand. It is to revive the Arab sense of humanity and vitality that has been suppressed by the grave distortions of 20th century Arab history.

This can only happen through a process that takes place within each individual and simultaneously on the level of public affairs. The Arab need to be more involved in the momentous decisions that are being made in their name and for the sake of their future wellbeing. Political leadership and power elites should not fear this, but rather welcome it.

There is no doubt that the majority of Arabs already support the concept of negotiated peace and will continue to support the broad negotiating strategy being pursued in their name by their governments. If the democratisation process underway in Jordan, Palestine and other parts of the Arab World is not activated for the single most important public policy issue facing our people, both democratisation and peace will suffer in the end because they will be seen as unstable remnants of the old Arab order, rather than harbingers of the new order that we all seek to build, to enjoy and to pass on to our children.

Involving and consulting the Arab people in the peace process will strengthen our negotiators' hand in the peace negotiations that are taking place, secure better peace terms that can assure justice and future stability in the region, and provide the vital transition to genuinely participatory governance that is so badly needed in our region. It will also transform the peace process from an abstract, alienating force for national political hesitancy, into a dynamic, constructive foundation for building a post-peace Arab Nation — a nation that has the experience and the self-confidence that are required to meet the challenges of the future, rather than to be startled, awed, surprised and even scared by them.



More flexible stand urged against ailing Cuba

By David Storey

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton's hasty response to the boat people exodus from Cuba was seen by many analysts as a stop-gap that must be followed by a constructive U.S. approach to settle one of the last relics of the cold war.

"Cuba is at a critical turning point," said Gillian Gunn, a Cuba specialist at Washington's Georgetown University who recently returned from a two-week visit to the island. "It is more important than ever that U.S. policy be carefully calibrated to nudge the leadership (of Fidel Castro) in a peaceful, rather than apocalyptic direction," she wrote in the Washington Post Sunday.

She and other commentators urged a shift from the aggressive policy to foment domestic opposition to Mr. Castro, who has been Washington's Caribbean bogymen for 35 years, to a more flexible one of offering incentives for democratic change.

On Friday Mr. Clinton withdrew the welcome mat for Cubans making the risky crossing to Florida

aboard ramshackle rafts, reversing a 28-year policy to grant automatic asylum to refugees from the Communist state. They are now being detained at Guantanamo Bay U.S. naval base, ironically, on Cuba.

About 3,000 people have been picked up by the U.S. coast guard in August, prompting fears of a repeat of the 1980 exodus, also encouraged by Mr. Castro, in which 125,000 Cubans swept across, many of them released from jails or mental hospitals.

Cementing his tough line, partly to assuage domestic political pressure, Mr. Clinton announced an end to cash remittances from the United States, a cut in flights between Miami and Havana and an increase in propaganda broadcasts.

The changes brought U.S. policy more closely into line with that towards Haiti, and a nod towards the fact that, as the New York Times said in an editorial, "the cold war over Cuba is no longer a special case."

It added: "The next logical step, which the administration unfortunately shows no sign of taking, would be to formulate constructive diplomatic policies toward Cuba that could help ease the way to a democratic post-Castro future."

In the United States, the image of Cuba as a security threat was formed by the 1962 missile crisis, when president John Kennedy faced the Russians down over their plans to deploy nuclear weapons in their Communist ally 145 km from the U.S. coast.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the further impoverishment of the island, an ideological outpost stranded without an economic and political hacker, the threat has shifted to that of an unmanageable refugee influx.

Critics of the tough U.S. policy point to the thaw in U.S.-Vietnam relations where steps toward full trade and diplomatic ties with the old enemy are partly justified in terms of encouraging democratic reforms.

Under the threat of nuclear blackmail, the Clinton administration has taken a similar conciliatory line with North Korea, another orphan of the Soviet bloc, opting for talks rather than the big stick.

"It's time to begin offering Cuba, step by cautious step, relaxations of the sanctions in return for enforcement of civil liberties and progress toward democracy," the Washington Post said in an editorial.

Georgetown University's Gunn argued for creating an environment in which the Cuban leaders, already coping with serious shortages of everything from food to energy, would feel safe to make fundamental reforms.

A more flexible policy, offering incremental steps to ease the embargo to reward reforms, would change the climate. "Washington would create the political room for key institutions, particularly the military, to gradually alter their role in Cuban society without endangering their physical wellbeing," she said.

Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for Latin America in the Bush administration, last week proposed a similar programme of incentives to encourage democratic change. They would include promises that the U.S. military would not intervene in Cuba and would ultimately withdraw from the Guantanamo Bay base.

LETTERS

Loving peace

To the Editor:

AS SURELY as the glorious day follows the dismal night, peace must follow war. Yet between night and day, there is dawn, and without dawn, darkness would become an eternal shroud, and humanity would yield to its tempting call of slumber, sleep and morbid inaction.

Almost half a century of war has crawled heavily upon the wheels of time. Those years have been etched painfully yet surely within the chronicles of modern history. Slowly, though, stories written with the pen of blood are now written with the quill of gold, as the night begins to end, and the war begins to choke amidst the mists of peace.

Be not deceived however, for dawn has not yet come, and the resplendent sun waits patiently beyond the white sands of the precious desert.

The transition from war to peace is the most important stage of the whole process of change. Now, we must awaken the sun from its long and sad slumber. We have to accept the past, pray for the future, and live the present. Living entails listening, learning and loving; we must listen to our hearts, learn from the past, and love... peace. While peace may not be eternal, love is, and by loving peace, maybe we can sustain it forever.

Let us begin to understand that war is a silent thief. It steals our eyes so that we can't see, and our ears so that we can't listen. Let us begin to realise that peace is the will of God. It grants us eyes, ears... and life. Let us begin to comprehend that now, the sun must rise, and dawn must pierce the painful past. For as surely as dawn becomes day, and war becomes peace, despair turns into hope, and our lives are changed... forever.

Sa'ad Nabil Muasher,
Northwestern University,
Chicago.

Petra fee not too high

To the Editor:

IN ANSWER to Kirk Albrecht's letter (Jordan Times, Aug. 21), concerning the high admission fees to Petra, I wish to point out to Mr. Albrecht that the entrance fees to Disneyworld in the USA or France is around \$50 per person. He should admit that charging him less than \$30 to visit a world marvel, thousands of years old, is still cheaper than visiting EuroDisney which is hardly a sight and only four years old. The old entry fee to Petra of JD5 was abnormally low, not reflecting the real cost of living, salaries and maintenance fees. In my opinion, the admission fee of \$30 is still too low and should be revised upwards.

Freddy Lama,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Jordan-PLO talks conclude

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Abed Rabbo, in answer to a question on the Jerusalem issue, told reporters that the two sides had agreed that their foremost goal is "to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli occupation."

"I don't think that there are differences between Jordan and Palestine regarding the issue of Jerusalem," Mr. Abed Rabbo said. "Both of us see that the main task in front of us is to end the occupation of Jerusalem, its land, people and holy sites and regard it as a part of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967."

He added that the "relationship between us is much bigger and deeper than to have differences over administrative issues."

Mr. Abed Rabbo added that the close ties between the Kingdom and the Palestinian leadership also "go beyond media matters which sometimes are used sensationally to poison the atmosphere of relations."

"Jerusalem and the ending of its occupation is a joint Jordanian-Palestinian objective and also an Arab and Islamic issue," he said.

On the trade agreement between Jordan and Israel, the two sides declared in their joint statement that the trade volume between Jordan and the Palestinian authority areas "has to reach the maximum level."

"The amount reached in an agreement with Israel to export Jordanian goods to the areas outside the self-rule au-

thority's current jurisdiction, which is \$30 million, is not of the level we aspire to," the joint statement said.

"We have to find the suitable mechanism to which we would ensure the continuous flow of goods easily," said the joint statement.

"There are lists of goods that have already been agreed to as part of the Cairo agreement but we are looking for the mechanism to facilitate the movement of these goods between the two banks as well as arranging the transit movement in a manner that would serve both sides," Dr. Anani added as he read from the joint statement.

In the banking sector, Dr. Anani told reporters that the developments on the ground on the banking sector in the occupied territories "has been taken into account to ensure that we are able to lay down a mechanism... ensure the stability of the Jordanian dinar and at the same time leaves the monetary and banking work in the Palestinian territories to operate at its best standard."

In their joint statement, the two sides said that the Palestinians had briefed the Jordanians on their plans to issue Palestinian passports "and we thought that there are details in this issue that have to be discussed and we agreed to do that," Dr. Anani said.

In response to a question whether Jordan agreed to the principle of an independent Palestinian passport, Dr. Anani said: "We agreed to it. We will cooperate with them to the maximum level."

Problems loom in Jeddah

(Continued from page 1)

to Jeddah on Monday to pick up some of the containers, they said.

"Politics are at work again," said one businessman and importer. "We were happy that an end is in sight for the damaging offshore inspections by the American warships, and now the Saudi move has hit us."

Under an agreement signed by the Ports Corporation in July, the London-based Lloyd's Register is expected to replace the high-sea inspections by a land-based verification regime at Aqaba port as of noon Thursday.

An eight-member team of Lloyd's Register surveyors will work in coordination with Jordanian ports and cus-

tom authorities to observe cargo at Aqaba and report to the United Nations Sanctions Committee. Jordan will pay the cost of the surveying through a U.N. escrow account and claim the amount from the U.N. Compensation Committee which is handling claims related to the Gulf crisis.

The Lloyd's Register arrangement was agreed after nearly one year of discussions and four years of Jordanian complaints, that the costly offshore "interdictions" — the American name for the practice of naval officers based on warships hailing and boarding civilian ships for a thorough scrutiny of cargo and documents — were causing the Kingdom heavy losses.

Israel: No early recognition

(Continued from page 1)

located on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Beilin envisioned a Palestinian entity which was independent in most matters but with security and foreign affairs run jointly with Jordan.

He said the deadlock over Jerusalem might be solved by keeping the city united under Israeli sovereignty but with various local administrations.

"The Palestinians will continue talking about Jerusalem as their capital but in their hearts I think they realise they must not throw away the biggest chance in their history to create peace," Mr. Beilin said.

Mr. Beilin said he saw no major obstacles to a full peace accord between Israel and Jordan and that peace with Syria was within reach if the Syrians had the political will to negotiate directly with Israel.

"With Syria there is a (peace) formula but no date, and the formula is obviously, territories for peace," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Monday Israel would allow hardline Palestinian leaders opposed to the PLO-Israel peace deal to enter Gaza for a Palestine National Council (PNC) session on the Palestinian charter.

Mr. Peres said if the PNC did not drop clauses from the charter that denied Israel's right to exist, the PLO would be harming itself in the international arena.

He said Israel hoped Mr. Abu Nizar's statement was not the policy of Mr. Arafat. "We've said we are not opposed to their convening in Gaza," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio on Monday.

"We would allow everyone to enter, including Jibril, including Hawatmeh, whoever wants."

Ahmad Jibril heads the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. Nayef Hawatmeh leads the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Both bitterly oppose the September peace deal providing Palestinian self-rule.

In Damascus, Mr. Jibril and Mr. Hawatmeh said they

would boycott a PNC meeting in Gaza and said any member who approved changing the PLO's national charter would be guilty of treason.

"The call to change the Palestinian charter is a Zionist-American call which represents the first and final act in the process of eliminating the Palestinian cause," a spokesman for Mr. Jibril said.

"Anyone who contributes to the change of the charter is committing high treason and our people know how to deal with those people," he added.

"If Arafat agreed to enter Gaza under the knives and the flag of the Israeli enemy we reject such entry," Mr. Jibril's spokesman said.

"The return of all Palestinians to their homeland is a right which is approved by all international laws and U.N. decisions. Therefore we need no invitation or permission from Peres to go to our homes," Mr. Hawatmeh's spokesman said.

Mr. Hawatmeh's spokesman said the DFLP supported the convening of the PNC in any Arab capital to review and discuss the PLO-Israel peace agreement "which is rejected by the majority of our people."

"Out we reject the convening of the PNC under occupation. We reject the call because it is aimed at forcing Palestinians to submit to the Israeli will to change the charter and to endorse the Gaza-Jericho deal," he said.

"We will continue our struggle to foil the Gaza-Jericho deal and to establish the independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," the DFLP spokesman said.

Syria rejected Israeli offer

(Continued from page 1)

from Hizbollah downwards and if you wish upwards who are now operating against the security zone, against Israel, would be dismantled of their military capabilities," Mr. Lubrani said.



Children and adults crowd a tent of one of the humanitarian organisations in the refugee camps of Goma. The UNHCR says food aid for refugees had been stolen by Zairian soldiers (AFP photo)

Over 20 million in Horn of Africa may starve

AYOD, Sudan — In southern Sudan, the sound of a plane brings hungry people running to the dirt airstrip, hoping for food to sustain them through drought and the 12th year of civil war.

These are the strong, who often trek for days to reach villages on the food airlift. The weak are left in the hush, to eat boiled leaves and wild fruit, or to die.

In the dramatic, barren canyons and valleys of tigre province in northern Ethiopia, a long civil war is over but the misery is unending. The ground is so dry that no crops can grow.

Africa's newest country, Eritrea, is struggling to rebuild after a 30-year war for independence from Ethiopia. Drought has turned farms to wasteland. Dust swirls in the searing heat. Even the thorn bushes have died.

Overshadowed by the misery of refugees fleeing Rwanda, a far greater human catastrophe threatens more than 20 million people in 10 countries in and around the Horn of Africa, the continent's eastern bulge.

From Sudan to Tanzania, the haunting images of malnourished children are back. Their shriveled limbs, protruding ribs and swollen abdomens are terrible reminders of killer famines in Ethiopia in 1984-85 and in Somalia just two years ago.

Relief experts hoped an early warning system that alerted the world to the threat of mass starvation would mobilise enough food aid to avert a repetition of the 1 million deaths in Ethiopia and the 350,000 in Somalia.

It has so far, but the flight of nearly 2 million Rwandans has overwhelmed already overstretched relief operations in the rest of the Horn of Africa.

Food, trucks, relief workers and millions of dollars have been diverted to cope with the Rwanda crisis, leaving other famine-prone areas at risk. Their vulnerability is compounded by growing fatigue among the donors that ultimately foot the bill.

Bronek Szymlanski, director of the U.N. World Food Programme's (WFP) emergency operations, said any diversion of money from southern Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea "could well lead to terrible consequences."

"People look at what is the most visible and the most dramatic," he said. "They react to that and forget everything else... people have already forgotten that there were also Rwandan refugees in Tanzania, Burundi, and even in other places in Zaire," not just at Goma.

Julia V. Taft, president of Interaction, an association of 158 U.S. voluntary organisations, said millions of dollars President Clinton promised for Rwanda is being diverted from programmes elsewhere in the region.

"It's like shifting chairs on a sinking ship," she

said. "We're using the same resources, the same money, the same food, and just reallocating them within the same constrained budgets."

"In the long run, we tragically reduce our ability to prevent some of these crises... before they occur."

Even before 1.2 million Rwandan refugees fled to Goma, Zaire, in early July, the Horn of Africa faced a disaster of biblical proportions caused by drought, pestilence and war.

Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians, Eritreans and Sudanese who depended on donated food were not even getting the minimum 2,000 calories a day the United Nations deems necessary for survival.

"We don't know how people live on nymp or 1,300 calories, so we can't predict when people start dying," said James Borton, technical coordinator of the U.N. Emergency Unit for Ethiopia.

Lush vegetation covers the wolaia district of southern Ethiopia, but there is nothing to eat because hordes of caterpillars have devoured crops, leaving only the green stems and caterpillars have devoured crops, leaving only the green stems and leaves. Relief workers believe more than 10,000 people died of hunger and related afflictions in the first six months of 1994.

Prolonged drought has parched farms and dried up rivers in northern Ethiopia, Eritrea and northern Kenya. In Somalia, where U.S. soldiers took charge of food deliveries in 1992, gunmen again roam Mogadishu and the countryside, stealing food intended for the hundreds of thousands displaced by civil war.

Tragically, while millions of Rwandan refugees are hungry, a bounty sorghum crop rots on their abandoned farms. The refugees have put impossible demands on food and water supplies in neighbouring Zaire and Burundi as well as in Uganda and Tanzania, which have pockets of drought.

No one is sure how many Rwandans have been buried in mass graves in Zaire, how many Ethiopian peasants have starved, how many southern Sudanese are trapped without food by a never-ending civil war.

According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, 6.9 million people may starve to death in Ethiopia, 4.9 million in Rwanda and the Zaire refugee camps, 4.9 million in Sudan, 1.7 million in Burundi, 1.5 million in Eritrea, 1.4 million in Kenya, 888,000 in Tanzania, 540,000 in Uganda, 410,000 in Somalia and 120,000 in Djibouti.

That total of more than 23 million is higher than the U.N. World Food Programme's estimate of about 18 million. The current emergency in the Horn is worse than the continent's last one, in

Famine stalks the Horn of Africa once again, casting a shadow of death on millions of people. Will they be saved or will "donor fatigue" set in? AP Correspondent Edith M. Lederer traveled more than 4,800 kilometres over several weeks in search of answers.

southern Africa two years ago. Southern Africa had better ports, roads and transport to deliver food, and western donors were more generous.

"I think that donors are getting... worn out because so much of the aid needed today is related to civil strife," Szymlanski said in an interview in Nairobi after visiting Rwanda and several other countries.

Earlier this year, the World Food Programme appealed for 2.1 million tonnes of food worth more than \$880 million to help nine countries in the Horn of Africa. Donors have pledged about 1.7 million tonnes worth about \$600 million.

After the Rwandan exodus, the agency appealed for an additional \$2,000 tonnes over three months to feed the refugees in Zaire. So far, 53,000 tonnes has been pledged.

Ms. Machok said she had walked for two days to reach Ayod. "I have nothing," she said, "and if we do not get food, we will die."

In Ethiopia, many of the 58,000 people in Tigre Province's Wamberta District have to walk nearly 30 kilometres for donated food and up to five hours for water. More than 10,000 farm animals died for lack of grass, said Mahari Tesfay, the district administrator.

At the Heik Meshale town clinic, Amlisa Mahari tried to comfort her month-old son and the 2-week-old daughter of a neighbour. Both mothers were so malnourished they had no breast milk. And there was no milk at the clinic.

"It's worse than the last time for us," said Ms. Mahari, who was forcibly resettled in southern

sporadic help or none at all.

Farmers in Gadela village in Ethiopia's wolaia region lost their first 1994 crop of maize because rains were late, and caterpillars devoured the second. Hundreds of villagers, weakened by hunger, died in an outbreak of malaria. When a health team came to weigh and vaccinate everyone under 5, more than 500 mothers gathered, holding their sick, stick-like children and demanding food.

"For more than three months we've had no food," said Barate Agogo, who uprooted a clump of grass to show what her family had been eating. Two of her five children had died two months earlier and her 4-year-old son was under 60 per cent of normal weight.

A decade ago, a military government tried to hide Ethiopia's famine. This time, the civilian government alerted the world and donors pledged more than 90 per cent of the 1 million tonnes of food requested.

But getting the food to Ethiopia is easier than getting it to the millions of hungry people.

Landlocked Ethiopia relies on the antiquated ports of Massawa and Asah in Eritrea. Even before the big grain cargoes have arrived, ships are backed up waiting to unload.

Outside the ports, problems multiply: There is a shortage of trucks and many roads are inaccessible.

People in villages like Gadela "are living at the abyss of hunger, and if only a small thing happens they will go over the edge," said Peter Dijkhuizen, deputy director of the World Food Programme in Ethiopia.

So far, Ethiopia has avoided mass migration and the creation of huge camps that breed cholera and other diseases. That fits the aims of the United Nations and relief agencies: Keep people at home, keep them alive and give them seed and tools for the next crop.

A lot depends on the summer rains. They are reported to be good in parts of Kenya and Somalia, but in Ethiopia a food shortage will persist even if the rains bring a bumper crop.

Agricultural methods are so primitive that Ethiopian farmers produce only half as much maize as Kenyan farmers grow on similar land, and the nation has 12 million more mouths to feed than in 1984-85.

"I think we'll get through this year without massive loss of life, but if we have a bad main rainy season, it could be very serious in 1995," said Peter Simkin, the U.N. Development Programme representative in Ethiopia.

In Kenya, now experiencing one of its worst droughts, several district officials have been accused of selling relief supplies. Vast quantities of food have been looted in Somalia, and in Rwanda, desperately needed shipments were stolen.

Hunger is rampant in

many areas of southern Sudan cut off by fighting between tribes. The war has claimed an estimated 1.5 million lives since it began in 1983.

Fighting and hand-drawn trucks halted convoys from Neighbouring Uganda. Rail and river shipments have been stopped because a food train and food barge were looted, mainly by rebels. That leaves only air delivery, by far the most expensive.

In early July, fighting forced relief workers out of Alek county in the south-western bar El Ghazal region, where the French Agency Doctors Without Borders had found acute malnutrition in more than 45 per cent of the children.

"I've been in Sudan now for 10 years and this is the worst I've ever seen," said Gary Jones, emergency liaison officer for the Sudan emergency operation consortium of relief agencies.

"All the problems have been compounded this year because you've got the successive bad droughts of the past few years... and an upturn in fighting in the war resulting in the displacement of tens of thousands of people across southern Sudan."

In Khartoum, the military government insists there is no emergency.

"If you say that two million people are at risk of starvation, that's dramatic, that's stuff for the movies," said Ghazi Salah Eddin, minister of state in the president's office.

"It would have been more constructive to look at the gaps" in food supplies and "how the international community could help with transport," he said in an interview.

"But to put it in a manner which incriminates the government in one way or another — I don't see how they can expect us to be very cooperative," he said, referring to the United Nations and foreign relief organisations.

Luciglo C. Ramirez, adviser to the World Food Programme in Khartoum, said most hunger-related deaths in Sudan this year have been due to displacement, not drought.

What can be done? In the short term, life or death depends on the generosity of donors and their ability to deliver the food.

Revelians R.N. Tulu-hungwa, chief representative of the U.N. children's fund in Ethiopia, said half the people who die in drought and famine could be saved by clean water, medical care and vaccination, especially against measles and tetanus.

Ultimately, the larger issues of war, education, development and population must be addressed if sub-Saharan Africa is to escape the cycle of disaster and rescue.

"We are always trying to just fill up the holes without attacking the root causes," said Szymlanski of the World Food Programme.



Two starving Somali children await food distribution in Baidoa (AFP photo)

Western governments and private agencies are running out of relief money for the year. If "donor fatigue" sets in, millions of people could starve.

Nearly all of the 10,000 to 15,000 people now in Ayod, a rebel-held town in southern Sudan, live on handouts of sorghum and lentils from the World Food Programme. Many have moved several times because of the war.

"I came here when I heard there was food, because I was hungry, I used to eat seeds and the leaves of fig trees," said Nyatin Machok, stirring a pot of sorghum outside her family's conical straw hut. She wore only a tattered, dirty loincloth. Her three children, all naked, had bloated stomachs.

Ethiopia during the civil war and returned to Tigre last year. "When I came back, I thought life would be better. But now I have nothing to sell and nothing to eat."

In the dusty Eritrean village of Shiebi, Halima Osman, 45, pondered how her eight children would survive the week.

"I haven't ever seen anything like this," said the former refugee, who returned from six years in Sudan when the war ended. "We want to be independent. We want oxen and seeds... but we have nothing... If no food comes, we will die."

Hard as their lot is, the people of Shiebi are more fortunate than millions in the Horn who have only

كنا في الجوع

Mideast could spend \$78b on power projects

DUBAI (R) — Middle Eastern countries, which face an explosion in domestic and industrial demand for electricity, could spend nearly \$78 billion on increasing generating capacity by the year 2033, a specialist weekly said Monday.

The London-based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) said that if planned increases go ahead in 15 states in the region, which in the MEED survey include Pakistan but exclude Israel, generating capacity could rise by 70 per cent by the turn of the century.

It said additional capacity of 68,000 megawatts was planned and more proposals were expected to boost the current capacity of just under 100,000 megawatts.

The main additions were expected in Pakistan (20,000 MW at a cost of \$15 billion), Saudi Arabia (15,000 MW at a cost of \$15 billion) and Iran (13,000 MW at a cost of \$17 billion).

It said, without giving details, that Iraq planned to spend \$12 billion on increasing generating capacity but these plans will remain on hold pending the lifting of the U.N. economic embargo imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Five Arab Gulf oil states other than Saudi Arabia — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — were planning to increase capacity by 7,500 MW at a total cost of \$9 billion, according to the figures quoted by MEED.

MEED: Iran's finances look better than expected

DUBAI (R) — Iran's finances are in better shape than was expected even six months ago after it successfully rescheduled the bulk of its foreign debts and received a boost from higher oil prices, a specialist weekly said Monday.

The London-based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) said Tehran had so far rescheduled \$8 billion of its short-term foreign debts to 11 of its main trading partners and expects to raise the total to \$10 billion in the coming months.

"This means that Iran will have restructured its debt profile from mostly short-term to mostly medium-term after years of reluctance by

Western countries to help out with anything beyond short-term credits," it said.

Iran, which is facing a hostile United States that tried unsuccessfully to derail the rescheduling talks, could also earn up to \$4 billion more from higher oil prices than anticipated in its cautious budget for the 1994/95 financial year which started on March 21, MEED said.

"The government's finances are thus in much better shape now than even six months ago. Certainly, Iran can start looking ahead and planning for the first time in two years," it added.

MEED listed the rescheduling so far as: Germany

\$2.71 billion, Japan \$2 billion, Italy \$1.4 billion, Austria \$466 million, Switzerland \$312 million, France \$300 million, Denmark \$210 million, the Netherlands \$210 million, Spain \$150 million, and Belgium and Sweden \$140 million each.

It said there was more than \$200 million in private short-term arrears to Britain now under negotiation for rescheduling and another \$1 to \$2 billion of mostly private reschedulings expected.

By rescheduling the expected \$10 billion, Iran will have spread out payments between 1994 and 1999, including a two-year grace period. But the annual payments will continue to

account for 20-25 per cent of estimated oil revenues, it added.

MEED projected total foreign debt repayments as follows: 1994: \$3.5 billion, 1995: \$1.6 billion, 1996: \$4.4 billion, 1997: \$4.1 billion, 1998: \$3.85 billion and 1999: \$3.57 billion.

It said that payments of about \$800 million in the year 2000 would cover only interest and principal from previous medium and long-term loans. Annual payments after that would be insignificant if Iran does not take on any new loans.

The weekly said Iran would have to adhere rigorously to this schedule or face the wrath of international

bankers and state insurance agencies.

Speaking of a host of serious economic difficulties and a restive population, MEED suggests the reschedulings provide a breathing space but do not resolve underlying problems.

After reviewing the delays suffered by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's economic restructuring plans, it quoted analysts as arguing that economic reform cannot succeed without parallel political liberalisation.

"Any such move will be difficult as long as the siege mentality fostered by U.S.-led international hostility continues to prevail," it added.

MEES sees oil price rise in the medium term

NICOSIA (R) — A slide on oil prices in recent weeks may have run its course, with a price rise likely in the medium term, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

"There is ample evidence that points in the direction of higher — not lower — prices, at least in the medium term," the Cyprus-based newsletter

said. "The fact that the contango in crude prices (in which forward prices are higher than those for physical cargoes) has intensified recently indicates that the crude market itself is not convinced lower prices are here to stay," it added.

Brent Blend crude futures for October delivery, used as

a benchmark for world oil prices, opened at \$16.30 a barrel in London Monday from a peak of \$19.41 on Aug. 1.

MEES said the market had been taking a more relaxed view of further Nigerian oil output cuts and focused on bearish factors such as forecasts of high North Sea output and extensive U.S. and

European refinery turnarounds later in the year.

But it said although Nigeria's oil output had stabilised around 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) in the midst of an oil workers' strike, the political situation there was still highly volatile with observers expecting a "decisive crunch" between army rulers and the pro-democracy opposition within weeks.

The strike has cut Nigerian output by about 20 per cent

and MEES said there was no evidence that other Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members would make up the shortfall, which would mean a major violation of their agreement not to raise output before the end of the year at least.

Farm loans, talk of aid to firms drive rouble down

MOSCOW (R) — The rouble slithered to a new low around 2,190 to the dollar Monday, a victim of government loans to ailing agriculture and traders' fears that the state will issue new credits to help companies survive.

"The government has hinted it will support industry, and there has been talk about the possibility of forgiving companies' debts," said Igor Doronin, a market analyst with the Moscow Interbank Currency Exchange (MICEX).

"Such ideas are stirring up inflationary expectations and raising speculative activities," he pointed out.

The currency, which is not freely convertible on world markets, has fallen six per cent over the last month amid a big rouble surplus.

The rouble fell to 2,171 per dollar on the exchange from 2,151 on Friday and 2,112 a week ago.

But, unusually, it traded well below the MICEX rate on the interbank market, where banks quoted the currency as low as 2,190 roubles per dollar. The gap between the MICEX rate and the interbank rate is rarely more than five points.

Dealers expected the rouble's slide to continue despite efforts by the Russian central bank to close a gap between supply and demand at daily trading sessions on MICEX.

"A rouble surplus persists after the credit emission and the situation on the currency market is panicky. The central bank is trying to brake the rouble's fall, but it does not always succeed," said Stanislav Tregub, treasurer at Business Bank.

The central bank sold \$20 million during trade on MICEX on Monday, but traders said actual central bank sales recently accounted for most of net trading volumes on the ex-

change.

Net turnover, which ignores compulsory exchange of some export earnings, was a new record of \$165.45 million on Monday, up from last week's previous record of \$161.40 million.

"The rouble slumped today after the central bank decided to save some dollars. Of course it's stupid to sell \$150 million a day," said a dealer who declined to be named.

Traders expect the rouble to continue falling by about 10 points a day, although some dealers think the fall could slow as banks take profits on the rouble's recent slide.

But a dealer from Delovaya Rossiya, said some banks were selling dollars at the request of the Russian central bank in an effort to help the bank prop up the rouble.

Meanwhile, Russia's acting finance minister, in a sharp reaction to a plea for debt forgiveness from a government colleague, said Russia had no intention of asking the West to write off its debts.

TIAR-TASS news agency quoted Sergei Dubinin as saying that Russia's relations with creditors were based on the need for strict observance of all debt service obligations.

"Suspension of foreign debt payments would automatically mean that existing credit lines along which Russia receives aid are closed," TASS quoted Mr. Dubinin as saying in an interview in the historic city of Yaroslavl to the north of Moscow.

Foreign Trade Minister Oleg Davydov, breaking ranks with cabinet colleagues, suggested last week that creditors write off some of Russia's debts, effectively as a quid pro quo for Russia's role in bringing the cold war to an end.

Russia has struggled to repay debts of \$80 billion inherited from the former Soviet Union and creditor states have agreed to reschedule these debts, giving Moscow extra time to pay.

But Russian officials have so far refrained from asking creditors to forgive their debts, fearing that this could make it harder to borrow in the future.

Mr. Dubinin said Russia intended to continue paying its debts regularly "according to its established rules."

The finance ministry shares responsibility for debt talks with the economics ministry of Alexander Shokhin. Mr. Davydov's foreign trade ministry is not directly responsible for the issue.

Western states are worried that repaying Russia's foreign debt could put an unbearable strain on a fragile economy. But at the same time they would like to see Russia preserve its credibility as a borrower.

German churches lambast gap between rich and poor

BONN (R) — Germany's two main churches have attacked the welfare policies of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats, saying they had divided society into winners and losers.

"Society shares responsibility for the living conditions of its worst-off," the Catholic and Protestant churches said in a joint study.

Two days after Mr. Kohl said in a broadcast interview that he wanted cuts in unemployment and other benefits after October's general election to ensure that the jobless do not end up with higher incomes than wage-earners.

His statement was defended by Christian Democrat (CDU) General Secretary Peter Hintze, who told German radio: "We

want to build structures that motivate the jobless to find work. Everyone has a duty to contribute, whether partially or wholly, to their own livelihood."

The churches said in their study, which was meant to have been published after the October elections and which church officials said had not been formally adopted, that people in need should not be

stigmatised and shut out from society.

It specifically criticised the "division of society into winners and losers."

Opposition Social Democrat (SPD) leader Rudolf Scharping has criticised the government's plans to cut welfare, saying seven million people live below the poverty level in Germany and that the cuts would make them a permanent underclass.

Mr. Hintze said the CDU plans would take the qualifications of the unemployed into account and that "a piano player, for example, would not be expected to do hard farm labour that could potentially injure his hands."

Asked whether the government would draw up a "catalogue" of suitable jobs for particular qualifications, Mr. Hintze said that would be up to the 16 federal states to decide individually.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



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"If this kiss knocks your socks off, try to aim them at the laundry pile!"

Jumble not received

South African labour aggression could backfire, central bank says

JOHANNESBURG (R) —

Recent aggressive wage demands in South Africa could undermine the country's anti-inflation fight and post-apartheid reconstruction goals, the Reserve (central) Bank said Monday.

The bank, in its annual economic review, painted a picture of widespread poverty and unemployment, and endorsed the high priority given by President Nelson Mandela's three-month-old government to improving the lot of the disadvantaged.

It gave warning, however, that the high, sustained economic growth required to create jobs could be achieved only in a stable financial environment.

"A more equitable distribution of wealth and income is difficult, if not almost impossible, to accomplish under conditions of high inflation," it declared.

The report followed a wave of strikes, accompanying annual wage negotiations, aimed at securing the "better life for all" promised by Mr. Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) when it campaigned for April's first all-race elections.

The bank said all new jobs created between 1981 and 1989 were wiped out in the following four-and-a-half years, which spanned the country's longest recession on record.

As of last October, 29 per cent of the economically active population was unable to obtain paid work, it said.

It noted South Africa's monetary authorities had succeeded in reducing inflation to single digits in 1993 for the first time in 20 years. And, with consumer prices running at an annual 7.5 per cent in

June, they had held it down this year.

But, it added, productivity had shown poor improvement and higher labour costs did not augur well for the anti-inflation fight.

"Recent aggressive wage demands, combined with the depreciation of the exchange rate of the rand, may frustrate the authorities in their efforts to curb the general rise in prices further," the report pointed out.

It said risks included not only a threat of higher inflation, but also reduced demand for labour itself.

Militant demands could encourage the development of more capital-intensive production, affect business confidence and hold back private sector investment.

"Disorderly labour conditions are therefore detrimental to the objective of high employment-creating economic growth. By restraining output growth, such labour actions also limit the ability of the authorities to achieve the socio-economic upliftment of the population," it said.

The report follows official projections that the economy could grow more than 2.5 per cent this year, after 1.2 per cent in 1993 which followed three years in a row of shrinkage. But 2.5 per cent growth would barely match the rate of population increase.

Economists say much stronger expansion of the economy is needed to make a success of the ANC-led government's reconstruction programme aimed at creating jobs and tackling housing, health, education and other backlogs suffered by the five-to-one black majority under apartheid.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY-AUGUST 23, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get rid of whatever is causing disharmony as the Sun enters Virgo today. Look into any health concern that has been on your mind and exercise more patience in handling a pending civic matter.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Discuss future plans with associates on any new projects. Good organisational work is the key to your success now. Sidestep a troublemaker.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Find a better way of handling your responsibilities and they are soon behind you. Meet the expectations of a loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can gain your aims now if you schedule your time and activities well. Relax and be contented in the evening with your mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks where your health is concerned at this time. Put a special talent you have to work and you will get noticed by higher-ups.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Study new interests which could prove profitable for you in the future. Take treatments to improve your appearance and health.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Set up a better system so Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword

by Mary E. Brindemour

ACROSS	1 Large number	10 Splosh	19 Solo	28 Corn bread	37 Dental need	46 Killer whale	55 Squiggly letter	64 Expressive	73 Refrigerator	82 Cruel ruler	91 Ransack	100 Magic board?	109 Mr. and Mrs.	118 Lecherous one	127 Snake	136 Do something	145 Disfigure	154 Helmet	163 Costume	172 Norm	181 From stem to —	190 Poet, Stephen	199 Vincent	208 Try a case again	217 Like a root, sometimes	226 Unspoken	235 Senior citizens	244 Hope and Dole	253 Magician's word	262 Way down	271 Border on	280 Sham	289 Acting rump	298 Result	307 Very short	316 desiccated	325 Conjuror	334 State abbr.	343 Considers	352 Try out	361 Emended again	370 Ruined	379 Translucent	388 Ceramic	397 Fairy tale	406 Operate	415 Afternoon	424 Functions	433 Part of D-Day	442 Frost work	451 Evergreen	460 Spanish lady	469 Seymour	478 Idolize	487 — home!	496 ERA or FBI	505 Shunt	514 Donated	523 Idea symbol	532 Spanish lady	541 Removed, as	550 parent	559 Poach	568 Down under	577 Spring holiday	586 Niece	595 Threefold	604 Make happy	613 A bed of —	622 Run-down place	631 Time zone	640 letters
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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS	1 ADAM'S	2 ADAM'S	3 ADAM'S	4 ADAM'S	5 ADAM'S	6 ADAM'S	7 ADAM'S	8 ADAM'S	9 ADAM'S	10 ADAM'S	11 ADAM'S	12 ADAM'S	13 ADAM'S	14 ADAM'S	15 ADAM'S	16 ADAM'S	17 ADAM'S	18 ADAM'S	19 ADAM'S	20 ADAM'S	21 ADAM'S	22 ADAM'S	23 ADAM'S	24 ADAM'S	25 ADAM'S	26 ADAM'S	27 ADAM'S	28 ADAM'S	29 ADAM'S	30 ADAM'S	31 ADAM'S	32 ADAM'S	33 ADAM'S	34 ADAM'S	35 ADAM'S	36 ADAM'S	37 ADAM'S	38 ADAM'S	39 ADAM'S	40 ADAM'S	41 ADAM'S	42 ADAM'S	43 ADAM'S	44 ADAM'S	45 ADAM'S	46 ADAM'S	47 ADAM'S	48 ADAM'S	49 ADAM'S	50 ADAM'S	51 ADAM'S	52 ADAM'S	53 ADAM'S	54 ADAM'S	55 ADAM'S	56 ADAM'S	57 ADAM'S	58 ADAM'S	59 ADAM'S	60 ADAM'S	61 ADAM'S	62 ADAM'S	63 ADAM'S	64 ADAM'S
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S. Africa wins its first medal, Aussies' swimming streak ends

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — South Africa, in the Commonwealth Games for the first time in 36 years, earned its first medal Sunday after a controversial cycling finish. Australia's 10-race winning streak in the pool ended in stunning fashion with three losses, and Canada swept all five wrestling finals.

Mark Rendell, a plumber, won the gruelling men's 181.9-kilometre cycling road race in 4 hours, 46 minutes, 7.91 seconds, leading a 1-2 New Zealand finish.

South African Willem Engelbrecht was awarded the bronze medal after a protest by Australian Grant Rice against England's Chris Lillywhite, the original third-place finisher.

Following the appeal, Lillywhite, who was accused of impeding Rice's progress, was dropped to fifth. Rice was elevated from fifth to fourth and Engelbrecht was moved from fourth to third.

"I feel vindicated," Rice said. "I was in third place with 100 metres to race and Lillywhite reached out and grabbed me by the shorts to give himself a sling past me... There was no reason for Lillywhite to do what he did. I had ridden with the guy for four hours and he does this to me."

Lillywhite said he fended off Rice because "the Australian saw me coming and tried to put me into the wall."

The smiling Engelbrecht presented his medal by Michael Fennell, newly elected president of the Commonwealth Games Federation.

The last time the South Africans competed in the games, at Cardiff, Wales in 1958. They won 31 medals — 13 golds, 10 silvers and 8 bronzes.

Rendell won by more than two minutes over teammates Brian Fowler, who earned his third consecutive silver medal and his sixth medal in a career dating to the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

Fowler, a three-time Olympian, dedicated the race to his late father.

Trevor Fowler died in a velodrome accident only two days before the 1990 games.

"It's four years later and I'm at the games again," the emotional Fowler, the New Zealand flag bearer, said before Sunday's race. "It has brought it all back. It's hard to forget about a thing like that. There are a lot of memories that are flooding back right now."

In the women's cycling road race, Kathryn Watt, the 1992 Olympic champion from Australia, easily defended her Commonwealth title, beating runner-up Linda Jackson of Canada by 30 seconds.

Watt completed the 96.3-kilometre race — nine laps of a 10.7-kilometre circuit around the University of Victoria and adjacent Mount Tolmie Park — in 2:48:04.73.

It was the second gold medal of the 1994 games for Watt. She was part of the Australian team that won the team time trial Friday.

Jackson, who lives in Los Altos Hills, Calif., and gave up a career in investment banking in San Francisco to pursue cycling, was delighted at finishing second.

"The thrill of coming up the homestretch with the crowd cheering gave me goosebumps," said Jackson, who is from Ottawa. "I don't regret it (being a cyclist) for a second."

In gymnastics, Neil Thomas, England's flag bearer at the opening ceremonies, won the men's all-around title with 55.950 points. Thomas, a two-time silver medalist in floor exercise at the world championships, also had gotten a bronze in Saturday's team event.

Canada's Stella Umeh, 19, who has been competing in gymnastics since she was 6,



Gillian Clark of England returns a shot during the women's double of the team final against Malaysia at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria. Clark and her partner Julie Bradbury defeated Malaysia to win the gold medal (AFP photo)

won the women's all-around title with 38.400 points.

Umeh, a high school student from Toronto, was first in the vault, balance beam and uneven bars and finished second in the floor exercise.

Australia's Rebecca Stoyel, winner of the floor exercise, finished second overall with 38.037 points.

In shooting, gold medals went to Canadian brothers Mark and Matthew Bedington in the men's pairs running target.

Canadians Sharon Bowes and Karen Morton in the women's pairs smallbore rifle, three position, India's Jaspal Rana and Ashok Pandit in the men's pairs centre-fire pistol, and Australia's Albert Bowden and Geoffrey Grenfell in the Fullbore rifle pairs.

England won the team badminton title, upsetting Malaysia 15-4, 16-18, 18-16.

SWIMMING

Canada's Stephen Clarke ended Australia's winning streak and England collected two golds, by backstroke Adam Ruckwood and the women's freestyle relay team Sunday as the rest of the Commonwealth hit back at the Australian dominance of the swimming pool.

The Australians won only two of the five golds, Hayley Lewis — a five-time winner at Auckland four years ago — collecting her second of the games and Nicole Stevenson upsetting countrywoman Elli Overton.

They had won nine of the previous 10 finals.

Lewis won the 400 freestyle and Stevenson triumphed in the 100 backstroke, increasing Australia's total to 11 golds in 15 events. England now has three in the pool and Canada one.

Clarke's victory in the 100-metre freestyle brought a huge sigh of relief to Canadian swim fans, afraid they would not see a home victory. The Australians, in fact, had boasted before the games that their team would win every gold.

"By my winning a gold, now maybe we can relax and we can swim our races without the pressure of people wondering when we are going to win one," said Clarke, the first non-Australian to win the 100 free in 24 years.

Clarke, who won a silver in the 100 butterfly Saturday after losing the lead in the closing metres, ended the Aussie streak with a powerful second lap swim after Australia's Andy Baidon appeared to get a flying start.

Baidon, who won four golds at Auckland, clocked 23.66 to lead at the turn by a half-body length, but Clarke powered through to take the lead with 25 metres remaining.

Chris Fydlar, another Australian who was the fastest qualifier, attacked in the last few metres, but Clarke won by an arms length in 50.21. Fydlar was 0.30 behind and Baidon took the bronze in 50.71.

"When I got the gold medal it was more of a sense of relief than anything," Clarke said. "I was up late last night thinking what might have been (in the butterfly final). I was frustrated."

In a see-sawing men's 200 backstroke, Ruckwood, the fastest qualifier, led at the first turn but lost the lead to Canada's Kevin Draxinger at the halfway mark.

The Englishman regained the lead by 0.24 at the third turn and produced a burst of power early on the fourth lap that left the Canadian behind.

While Ruckwood finished in a games' record 2:00.79, Draxinger managed to hold on to silver in 2:02.19, with Australia's Scott Miller taking the bronze in 2:02.43.

Canada's Gary Anderson set the previous games mark of 2:01.69 four years ago at Auckland.

"The spirit in the English team has been fantastic since Karen Pickering won the opening gold medal," Ruckwood said at a news conference while watching the women's 400 freestyle team win the final gold of the day.

"It's been at the top level since then and now it's getting even better."

The Australian relay foursome were expected to at least make a sweep of the women's events Sunday but were caught by the English squad of Susan Rolph, Alexandra Bennett, Claire Hindard and Pickering.

The Canadian team of Marianne Limpert, Shannon Shakespeare, Jessica Amesey and Glencora Maughan led for most of the race until Maughan took on 100-metre freestyle champion Pickering.

Pickering, who set off in third, more than a second behind, turned up the power to charge past the Canadian and lead the team to victory in a games' record 3:46.23. Australia set the previous mark of 3:46.85 four years ago.

Karen van Wirdum also pased Maughan to snatch the silver for Australia in 3:46.73. Canada clocked 3:47.25 for the bronze.

"It's good to be able to show the Australians that they're not unbeatable," said Pickering whose final leg was 55.44. "And it was our team strength, too, in the relay. We showed that they won't have it all their own way."

Lewis clocked a comparatively slow 4:12.56 to collect her second gold of these championships. Third in the early stages, she moved smoothly ahead of Canada's Stephanie Richardson and Australian Julie Majer and moved a half-body length ahead at halfway.

England's Sarah Hardcastle, who won the title in 1986, led the chasers along with Canada's Nikki Dryden, swimming in her home city, and who had the fastest qualifying time.

With 100 metres to go, it was Lewis' race although Hardcastle kept chasing, only to be caught for the silver medal by another Australian, Stacey Gartrell.

The silver medalist's time was 4:13.06, exactly a half-second slower than Lewis, and Hardcastle clocked 4:13.29.

"I'm more relieved than anything after the way I swam before in the medal," said Lewis, whose other gold game in the 800 freestyle relay. "I was despondent after that race but this makes up for it."

In the women's backstroke final, Stephenson went off fast in lane one and hit the turn in 30.83. She maintained that pace down the second length and, although Overton appeared to close near the end, Stephenson held on in 1:02.68. Overton clocked 1:02.90 and England's Katherine Osher gained the bronze in 1:03.27, edging South African team captain Marianne Kriel.

WRESTLING

If there is such a thing as a home match advantage, Canada certainly had it.

The host country won nine of 10 gold medals in wrestling at the Commonwealth Games, swept along by a whooping, hollering home crowd that packed the Juan de Fuca Recreation Centre Arena.

Canada won all five matches Sunday night, running their streak to nine in a row. The only gold they didn't win came in the first final Saturday, when Paul Ragusa tore ligaments in his left ankle and had his 48-kilogramme match with Nigeria's Jacob Isaac called off because of injury.

The nine golds matched Canada's performance the last time wrestling was part of the Commonwealth Games' eight years ago in Scotland.

"We thought that we had a strong team," Canadian coach Roh Moore said. "We're sending some strong competitors to the world championships, too."

Five of the Canadian winners will compete in the World Championships, which start Tuesday in Istanbul — Justin Abdo at 82 kilograms, Roh Dawson at 56 kilograms, Scott Bianco at 90 kilograms, Marty Calder at 62 kilograms and David Hohl at 74 kilograms.

Ragusa would have gone, too, if not for the injury. Two of Canada's victories Sunday were extremely close calls.

At 90 kilos, Bianco fell behind Nigeria's Kodel Victor 3-0, then rallied and scored the tying point with three seconds to play.

"From then on there was no way he was going to beat me," Bianco said.

Victor was so upset he didn't come to the interview area.

At 62 kilograms, Calder scored the winning point with 17 seconds remaining in a tough 3-1 victory over John Mellins of England.

Both Victor and Mellins filed protests, but failed to change the outcome of the matches.

Mellins' protest alleging Calder was guilty of a false

start was upheld, but because the score was tied 1-1 when the infraction occurred, Calder's victory stood.

The evening began with Selwyn Tam from nearby Vancouver dominating England's Andrew Hutchinson 10-0 in the 52-kilogramme final.

Canada's Andrew Bodorow defeated Bidei Jackson of Nigeria 5-3 at 130 kilograms, holding on despite suffering an ankle injury with 1 minute and 41 seconds left in the match. The home team's final victory was an easy one, with Hohl pinning Reinold Ozoline of Australia with 3:10 remaining in the match.

Hutchinson, who also holds Canadian citizenship and trains in Calgary, had nothing but compliments for the Canadian programme.

"You should be proud of the Canadians because really they've come far in the international wrestling scene," he said. "They've come up to the top five in the world."

Moore said eighth-best was probably a realistic assessment, but he acknowledged that the programme in Canada has come a long way.

"Over the last 15 years, we've gone from hoping to do well at the Commonwealth Games to expecting to do well," he said.

In fact, he said, it's harder for a wrestler to win the Canadian national championship than it is to win the Commonwealth gold.

TRACK

The Britons are here with their best — Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Colin Jackson. The Kenyans brought their young runners in place of their distance stars. And South Africa is poised to win its first gold medal in 36 years.

That's the overall picture as track and field begins at the Commonwealth Games Monday.



Canada's Stella Umeh performs on the balance beam during the women's all-around gymnastics competition at the XV Commonwealth Games in Victoria. Umeh won the gold medal with a total score of 38.400 (AFP photo)

Christie, defending champion in the men's 100 metres, the 1993 world champion and 1992 Olympic gold medalist, is coming off a series of sparkling European performances. In the past two weeks, he won his third consecutive title at the European championships and beat the world's best in Grand Prix meets at Zurich, Switzerland, and Brussels, Belgium.

"It's going to be harder to keep the Commonwealth title than the European title," Christie said. "Frankie Fredericks will be after me and the Nigerians always put out those decent sprinters."

"I don't plan to let this title go. But it's clear I will have to be giving the others plenty of respect."

The others include Fredericks, the quiet Namibian who was runner-up to Christie at the Barcelona Games; Canada's Bruny Surin, the bronze medalist at the 1990 Commonwealth Games, and Nigerians Olapade Adeniken and Daniel Effiong.

Adeniken, sixth at the '92

steeplechase, and William Sigei, the 5,000 world record holder.

Nevertheless, the less renowned Kenyan runners have looked good in practice and still could monopolise the medals in the distance races.

South Africa, competing in the games for the first time since 1958 after being banned because of its apartheid policy, has the capability of performing well in track and field.

"There's a strong possibility the South Africans could match their total of three golds at Cardiff, Wales, 36 years ago. Their top hopes are Elna Meyer, the women's 10,000-metre silver medalist at Barcelona, men's 1,500-metre runner Johan Landsman, who has run 3 minutes, 33.56 seconds, and pole vaulter Okkert Brits, who has cleared 5.85 metres this year.

Monday's programme will be devoted mostly to heats, qualifying, semifinals and the first four events of the heptathlon. The only final will be the men's hammer throw.



New Zealand cyclist Brian Fowler crosses the finish line for the silver medal in the 181km cycling road race on Aug. 21 in the XV Commonwealth Games in Victoria British Columbia. In the background England cyclist Chris Lillywhite interferences with South African Willem Engelbrecht. Engelbrecht claimed South Africa's first medal after Lillywhite was put back to fourth place for the interference (AFP photo)

Rendell rewrites script

VICTORIA (APF) — Kiwi sacrificial lamb Mark Rendell turned the tables on competitor nearly-man Brian Fowler to grab Commonwealth gold in the men's road race here on Sunday.

Meanwhile South African Willem Engelbrecht won his country's first medal since 1958 — but only after a protest.

The unvaunted Rendell, given the job to protect double silver winner Fowler and reigning champion Game Miller during the event, instead made a late assault after a marathon six-man break to destroy his rivals.

The 25-year-old plumber clocked 4hr 46mins 7secs over the 181km Mount Tolmie course, with Fowler clinching a hat-trick of silvers ahead of Engelbrecht.

Engelbrecht, a five-times national champion, was awarded the bronze after a protest over a final sprint tussle.

Fowler, who won silver in the event in 1982 and 1986, had been tipped as one of the hot favourites and upped the emotional stakes by dedicating the race to his late father before the start.

But Rendell, who won bronze in the 100km team time trial alongside Fowler on Friday, ground up the pace on the penultimate lap to take a minute off his remaining rivals at the bell,

guaranteeing victory. He said: "We discussed our plans last night and I was one of the workers."

"As it turned out, I managed to stay away — it was a real bonus. I turned round because I had hoped Brian was in my wheel. I can't sprint so I had to go early."

Fowler responded: "Getting silver was as good as winning. It was a team effort and it was great to have New Zealand in the top two places."

The crucial move of the race came after 25km when seven men broke clear.

That was whittled down first to six, when Northern Ireland's Connor Henry misjudged a sharp turn and slid out. He remounted but never rejoined the leaders.

Their one-minute lead after 30km grew to over three around the halfway point as the pack, containing his names Phil Anderson of Australia, Miller and England's Malcolm Elliott, disappointingly failed to react.

The only threat was mounted by Welshman Matthew Postle, who broke off the front of the pack to lead a four-man group in pursuit.

But he, Mark Walsham of England, Roddy Riddle of Scotland and Australian Matthew Wight never managed to bridge the gap.

Reilly heads for Australia

HALIFAX, England (APF) — Great Britain and Halifax rugby league boss Mal Reilly confirmed here on Monday that he was taking over as coach of the top Australian club Newcastle Knights.

Reilly, who played for one of the top Sydney clubs Manly in the 1970s, has agreed a two-year contract with the Knights, a decision described by the Rugby Football League as "a big blow for the game in Britain."

He will replace David Waite at Newcastle but has not yet said when Reilly still wants to lead Great Britain in the Ashes series in two months' time.

"I think we've got a good chance of beating the Aussies but whether or not I'll be allowed to stay in charge rests with the Rugby League," he said.

League chief executive Maurice Lindsay commented: "Mal has restored pride in Great Britain in the last few years and has been unquestionably one of the finest coaches in the sport."

Lindsay added: "His position as coach of Great Britain will now be assessed by the board of directors later this week."

Halifax, too, are considering their position. Reilly is contracted to the West Yorkshire club until 1996. They will certainly demand compensation.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAIMAN HIRSCH © 1993 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

North-South vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 5
♥ K J 7 2
♦ A 4 3
♣ A 4

WEST
♠ K J 3
♥ 10 9 8 3
♦ K Q J 9 5 2
♣ Void

EAST
♠ Q 4
♥ A Q 5 4
♦ A 7 6
♣ Q 9 8 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ Void
♦ Void
♣ K J 10 7 6 5 3

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♣ 2 ♠
2 ♣ Pass 3 NT 4 ♠
Dbl Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣

Don't expect to find the bidding of freak hands discussed in any detail in the bridge texts. That is because not even experts are sure how to handle them. Do what the urge of the moment tells you and hope for the longer suit. Despite the fact that the bidding was forced to the four-

level, when it was South's turn to act again, the spade suit was shown and four spades doubled became the final contract.

West led the king of diamonds and East cost the defense a crucial tempo by overruling with the ace to shift to the queen of spades. Declarer ducked and, after some thought, East reverted to diamonds, declarer ruffing.

Declarer decided East's problem was whether or not to continue with a trump and, therefore, trump was 3-2. So declarer elected to cash the ace of trumps and was gratified to find that both defenders followed. A low club was led and, when West discarded, the contract was home. Declarer's ace won, a club was finessed and a club was ruffed with the table's last trump. Declarer returned to hand with a heart ruff, cashed the king of clubs and simply continued clubs until West ruffed. Making four-over doubled.

West missed the last chance to defeat the contract. When declarer leads a low club toward the ace, West must ruff with the master trump. Now declarer is short an entry to hand to establish the clubs. Indeed, to hold the losses to down one, declarer must jettison dummy's ace of clubs and later concede a club to East. Try it if you don't believe us.

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Matthaeus takes crucial decision

BONN (R) — The aftermath of Germany's disappointing World Cup and the futures of Lothar Matthaeus and Stefan Effenberg dominated the start of the German league soccer season at the weekend.

While champions Bayern Munich posted an expected 3-1 victory over Bochum, the most important event of the weekend took place when the 33-year-old Matthaeus announced he was staying on as captain of the national team.

German football suffered a major blow to its confidence after the national team's poor performance in the United States which culminated in a quarter-final defeat by Bulgaria.

Matthaeus, who has 117 caps to his name, was not expected to leave at such a low point. His experience will be vital to coach Berti Vogts, who is expected to start building a younger team for the 1996 European championships in England.

Barring injury, Matthaeus is now almost certain to take over from former England goalkeeper Peter Shilton as the most capped player of all time. Shilton won 125 caps.

"I'm going to go on for two more years. I am sure I can help the team and I'm determined to bring it back to the top again," Matthaeus said. "I want to be involved in getting back respect for German football again."

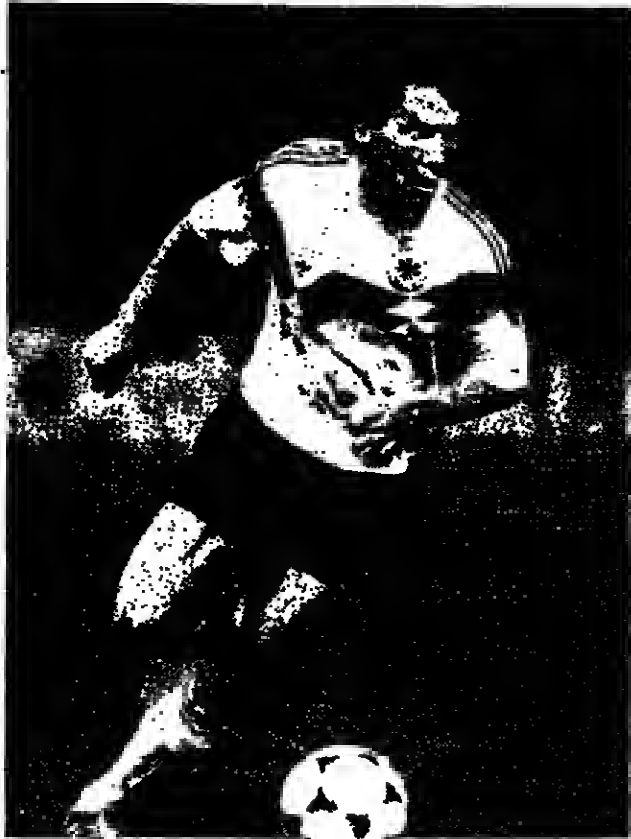
Effenberg was at the centre of attention when he played his first league game in Germany after being sent home from the World Cup for making an obscene gesture at the crowd.

The midfielder, returning to the Bundesliga from Italy, was welcomed home by a mixture of whistles and humour from the fans in his Borussia Moenchengladbach side's 1-1 draw at Schalke.

The most amusing sight of the weekend was an opened umbrella in the Schalke crowd with a huge hand on its metal peak. The middle finger pointed to the sky in memory of the gesture which caused Vogts to banish Effenberg from the World Cup and end his international career.

It will take a long time before Effenberg's fatal finger in Dallas is forgotten by the German football world. But the midfielder took the pressure of returning home well.

Vogts had said he will not pick Effenberg again for the national team. But if the



Lothar Matthaeus

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Vogts had said he will not pick Effenberg again for the national team. But if the

talented midfielder has a good Bundesliga season and avoids trouble, he may still have a chance of returning to international football.

"I didn't expect to be cheered by 70,000 people," Effenberg said. "I knew the whistles would be there. But in the second half I hardly heard them."

The German team play their first international of the season on Sept. 7 in a friendly against Russia in Moscow. An intensive Bundesliga fixture list will give the likes of Matthaeus little time to worry about that game.

Bayern continue their campaign at Freiburg on Tuesday evening while Borussia Dortmund, 4-0 victors over newly-promoted 1860 Munich at the weekend, travel to Cologne.

Effenberg will find out how his home fans react to his presence when Moenchengladbach play hosts to Karlsruhe on Wednesday.

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Newcastle's Andy Cole (right) tries to get past Leicester's Nicky Mohan (left) during their English Premier League match (AFP photo)

Newcastle resume normal service

LONDON (AFP) — Strikers Andy Cole and Peter Beardsley were back in the groove as Newcastle launched their Premiership campaign with a 3-1 win at newly promoted Leicester on Sunday.

The pair, who scored 65 goals between them last term, opened their accounts for the new season with emphatic finishes to hand the play-off winners an immediate lesson in the realities of life in the top flight.

But Newcastle boss Kevin Keegan's day was spoiled by Beardsley's withdrawal through injury and the late sending off of keeper Pavel Srnicek for bringing down Julian Joachim in full flight.

Two early thrusts by the live-wire Joachim boded well for Leicester, but Newcastle soon assumed control.

One of their new recruits, Belgian central defender Philippe Albert, was poised and controlled at the back.

He was a threat every time he moved forward and tested goalkeeper Gavin Ward's alertness with a fierce 30-yard volley.

Newcastle, for all the space they were creating for Fox and Swiss new boy Marc

Hortiger on the right, failed to make full use with a succession of hopeful rather than a directed crosses.

But Leicester had no answer to Beardsley, who created an opening for Albert three minutes into the second period. The Belgian received only a yellow card from the referee for the most obvious of dives as Ward came out.

But in the 51st minute Scott Sellars was allowed to advance to the edge of the box, where he fed Beardsley in space on the left. When Beardsley put the ball in low, Cole was there to divert it into the net.

Seven minutes later, Beardsley joined Cole on the scoresheet. Newcastle teased and tormented the Leicester left again, Lee slipped the ball into Beardsley and he turned brilliantly into space before firing under Ward from 15 yards.

Leicester were offered a route back into the game when Albert conceded a penalty but Srnicek down to his left, easily saved Mark Draper's poor spot-kick.

And 16 minutes from time, Newcastle went further ahead. Mohan slipped, Fox pounced, and his cross to-

wards substitute Robbie Elliott, in acres of space, was clinically turned home.

Five minutes from the end, Srnicek received his marching orders, and substitute keeper Mike Hooper — the third change Newcastle had made — was beaten in injury time, Joachim turning home the rebound after the keeper spilled Steven Agnew's shot.

Keegan said afterwards: "I thought the referee had a greta game — everything he did was right. Good game, good atmosphere, and it's lovely to see Leicester back in the Premiership."

Of Albert's eventual debut Keegan said: "We bought him for what he is. When he gets the ball, he goes. I think he will score goals — he's exciting."

Leicester boss Brian Little commented: "We knew it was a tough start. You've got to be able to handle defeat and not let it upset you."

In the first division, promotion favourites Wolves needed a second-half penalty to salvage a point at Notts County. County led through Michael Simpson in the 35th minute and Andy Thompson replied for Graham Taylor's Wolves.

Vasquez defends junior middleweight title

ST. JEAN DE LUZ, France (AP) — Argentina's Julio Cesar Vasquez handed American Rocco "Winky" Wright his first defeat as he took a 12-round unanimous decision to defend his WBA junior middleweight title Sunday night.

Vasquez knocked Wright down five times in the fight including twice in the final round to increase his record to 51-1. Wright is now 25-1.

In the battle between two left-handers, Wright was quicker and had a number of right jabs that snapped Vasquez's head back. However the 22-year-old from St. Petersburg, Florida, lacked the power of Vasquez who needed only a few punches to even things.

Panama's Reubon Torres had it 114-113, Denmark's Jan Ovesen scored it 115-110 and Juan Vargas of Venezuela had it 113-110 for Vasquez.

The second round showed the way the fight would go. Wright dominated the early minute with jabs and a good right hook.

But Vasquez was never hurt and caught Wright with a good left hook with a minute left to send the American down. Wright was up quickly but the pattern had been established.

The fighters ended up in a good exchange. Twice Vasquez went down that were ruled slips and he lost his mouthpiece. However he was never in trouble.

It seemed that Vasquez was beginning to slow down in the middle rounds but he was waiting for his opportunity.

That happened in the seventh round when another left put Wright down and started him bleeding from the nose.

Wright was in deep trouble in the ninth round. With a minute 25 seconds left, he again was floored and staggered up. He was on the verge of going down again but managed to survive with some movement and some timely clinches and holding.

Both fighters took it easy over the next two rounds before the final round.

With a minute left, Vasquez caught Wright again with a left that sent him down for a full eight count. Less than 30 seconds later Wright was down again. He picked himself up and avoided the third knockdown in the round to finish the fight standing.

POSITIONS VACANT

An international relief and development agency is seeking capable and experienced staff, preferably Jordanian, for work in community development, local training and credit fund projects in Jordan:

Community Credit Project Manager
Community Credit Field Officer
Community Projects Field Officer
Agriculture Project Manager

The Regional Office of the same agency is seeking a French-speaking

Mechanical Engineer (Water)

for a project in Mauritania.

For details of specific job descriptions, please call 863740 ext. 11. Closing date for all applications 31 August 1994.

Tyson to get offer for first fight

HONG KONG (AFP) — Mike Tyson will be offered a 100 million dollar purse by the organisers of Mohammad Ali's "Rumble In The Jungle" to stage his first fight in Hong Kong after leaving prison.



Mike Tyson

Bill Dobbins, head of Hemdale Special Events which is presenting Herbie Hide's world heavyweight title defence in Hong Kong on October 23, said here Monday he expected Tyson to take on Lennox Lewis or Tommy Morrison in his first bout.

Dobbins, one of the planners of Ali's legendary 1974 fight in Zaire, said there would probably be a \$100 million purse and that the territory had a good chance of landing the event.

Morrison is the first challenger for Hide's World Boxing Organisation title. With the October 23 bill having a total purse of 100 million HK dollars (\$13 million) it is already being billed as the highest individual sports event staged in Asia.

The Hide-Morrison fight is being co-promoted by Barry Hearn's Matchroom Organisation and Top Rank Inc of the United States, whose chairman Bob Arum is battling with Don King to represent Tyson when the fighter leaves jail.

"We have an understanding with Tyson that we will get first refusal," said Dobbins who added that "the eyes of the world" were on Hong Kong so it would be a good place for the bout.

Tyson was jailed for six years in March 1992 for raping black beauty queen De-

siree Washington. With remissions, the former undisputed world champion could be out of jail in seven or eight months and fight sometime next year.

The Hong Kong Stadium will have a 45,000 capacity for the Hide-Morrison fight which might tempt U.S. promoters looking for an attractive foreign setting for Tyson's first fight.

Ringside seats for the October 23 bill will cost 3,900 HK dollars (\$500). Also on the bill is an exhibition fight between former British title holder Frank Bruno and American Ray Mercer.

California-based Mexican Rafael Nolasco will put his International Boxing Federation lightweight title against Briton Billy Scherer, and U.S. fighter Zachary Padilla will make the fifth defence of his WBO junior welterweight title against Britain's Commonwealth Champion Ross Hale.

The Hide-Morrison bout will be at 11:00 a.m. (0300 GMT) so that it can be shown at a prime time slot in the United States.

Denmark bans WBO, Bredahl gives up title

COPENHAGEN (R) — The Danish Professional Boxing Federation (DPBF) on Monday banned all World Boxing Organisation (WBO) fights in Denmark, with Dan Jhonny Bredahl relinquishing his WBO superflyweight title.

"The executive committee of the DPBF has unanimously agreed to ban with immediate effect any further WBO championship contests from taking place in Denmark," the federation said in a statement.

It said it would also withdraw all Danish boxers licensed by the DPBF, including Bredahl, from WBO ratings lists as well as forbidding DPBF licence holders from acting as referees in WBO championship fights.

"The decision was prompted by the desire to avoid future scandals of the kind which have marred our relationships with WBO, including the manipulation of boxers and the exploitation of managers and promoters who are obliged to agree to outrageous terms," the statement said.

It slammed the WBO as "an organisation which no longer acts for the benefit of the sport it was ostensibly created to serve" and called upon fellow members of the

European Boxing Union (EBU) to reconsider their affiliation with WBO.

The Danish move follows similar action by the French Boxing Federation (FFB) in 1990 after a WBO title fight between U.S. WBO light-middleweight title holder Jhonny David Jackson and French challenger Mario Camara in Deauville ended in confusion.

In the incident a no-contest was declared after Camara floored the American for a count of nine and supporters and officials crowded the ring, stopping the fight.

Promoter Mogens Palle, who virtually monopolises professional boxing in Denmark, has reportedly had a long and difficult relationship with WBO.

His stable of fighters in recent years has included former WBO cruiser champion Magne Havnaa of Norway and Danes Gert Bo Jacobsen and Jhonny Bredahl's brother Jimmy, ex-WBO welterweight and super-featherweight champions respectively.

Palle has said he felt both Havnaa and Jacobsen were manoeuvred by the WBO into giving up their titles and feared the same was going to happen with Jhonny Bredahl, who is also in his stable.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

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	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre		AHLAN THEATRE	
	Richard Gere/ Sharon Stone in INTERSECTION Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		Mahmoud Abed Al Aziz in KHALTBITA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' STRIKING DISTANCE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Tom Hanks — in Philadelphia Shows: 3 - 6 - 19:30		Presents the political comedy: Legal Evening Entertainment Starring: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalalaj, Hassan Al Shaer and Mahmoud Abu Gharib. For reservation call tel.: 618274 - 618275		The political play Welcome Arabic Summit At 8:30 every Saturday and Sunday Salam Ya Salam At 8:30 every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday Tuesday closed.		With Amal Dabbas Every Saturday, Sunday and Monday. ★ The play Salam Ya Salam With Nadara Omran Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.	

دليل في كس

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kurds say they killed 15 Iranians

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Kurdish guerrillas said on Monday they killed 15 Revolutionary Guards in a clash in western Iran. The Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan said one of its fighters was killed in 90 minutes of fighting last Wednesday against members of the ideologically-motivated Revolutionary Guards near Mahabad, a Kurdish city 540 kilometres northwest of Tehran. The party, in a statement sent to Reuters from its Paris office, listed the names of 15 men killed in the clash and said they belong to the third brigade of the 16th Qods Division of the guards corps based in the Caspian coast province of Gilan. Kurdish rebels have waged a low intensity guerrilla struggle against the Islamic government in Tehran since they were largely driven across the border into Iraq by the army and Revolutionary Guards after major offensives in the early 1980s. Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati said last year the government was setting up a special strike force to deal with security problems in Iran's main Kurdish-populated province.

3 suspects killed in south Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed three suspected militants Monday in a dawn raid on their hideout in southern Egypt, security officials said. The sources said the three men were shot to death while trying to escape from a rented apartment in Al Zahra, a suburb of the city of Sohag, 400 kilometres south of Cairo. One of the three, Ahmad Noureddin, was the leader of a military wing of Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, or the Islamic Group, said a police source. The Islamic Group has been the major movement behind the 2½-year campaign to unseat the government and turn Egypt into an Islamic fundamentalist state. More than 390 people died in the violence.

Vienna seizes Iran-bound military equipment

VIENNA (AFP) — Austrian customs agents seized 10 electronic guiding systems manufactured specially for American tanks and destined for Iran, a spokesman at Vienna's airport said Monday. The military equipment seized last July 27 is valued at \$10 million, the spokesman said. He added that the material, made for M60 A-3 American tanks, was transported to Vienna aboard trucks from Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, and was to be loaded on an Iran Air flight at Vienna airport. Customs agents became suspicious after noticing that the packages containing the guiding systems were simply marked as "equipment." Special authorisation must be given by Austrian authorities before any military equipment can be transported through the neutral country. Customs authorities here said they believe the guiding systems were manufactured by Elektrooptika (ISKRA), a company in Ljubljana, and that an investigation into the illegal traffic was underway.

Police hold Kurdish demonstrators

PARIS (AFP) — A number of Kurds arrested following a violent demonstration in central Paris overnight were still being questioned by French police Monday morning, the Paris police headquarters said. In all, 198 protesters were arrested during a demonstration during which demonstrators called on the Turkish government "stop the massacre of the Kurdish people." Turkey is currently involved in a military campaign against Kurdish insurgents in the east and south east of the country. The Paris demonstrators also called on the French government to intervene in the dispute. Violent clashes between police and protesters broke out at around 04:00 (02:00 GMT) Monday after about 100 Kurdish protesters carrying mattresses joined the protest, saying they intended to stay on the streets all night. Police said they have begun legal proceedings against 13 protesters for "violence against the forces of law and order" and arson. Six officers were injured in the overnight clashes, along with several demonstrators, said Paris police.

Danish tourist contracts cholera in Turkey

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — A Danish tourist contracted cholera while on holiday in western Turkey, the Danish Serology Institute said Monday. The 23-year-old man, who has not been named, caught the disease in July but it was only identified as cholera on his return home, the institute said. A spokesman did not specify exactly where in northwest Turkey the man contracted the disease, which is spread via polluted water. The institute said a German national had also contracted cholera while travelling in Turkey this summer.

Japan pledges continued aid for Palestinians

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan pledged Monday to continue providing economic aid to promote Palestinian self-rule on the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, government officials said. Japanese Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono met the visiting Palestinian minister for economic aid and trade, Ahmed Qourie, in Tokyo Monday and assured him the money would be forthcoming, the officials said. In September, Japan pledged \$200 million over two years in aid for Palestinian autonomy, of which \$50 million has been disbursed. Mr. Qourie appealed for Japanese assistance in the fields of public welfare, education and medicine as well as to improve social infrastructure, the officials said. Mr. Kono expressed Japan's readiness to comply with the request, the officials said.

Rabin orders \$5m road around Jericho

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday ordered that \$5 million be allocated for a road around Jericho after Jewish settlers complained they were in danger when driving through the Palestinian self-rule enclave, officials said. Jordan Valley settlers sent a letter to General Ilan Biran, military chief for the West Bank, on Sunday, saying the presence of hundreds of freed Palestinian prisoners in Jericho put them at risk. Settlers going to Jerusalem have to drive through Jericho, and an Israeli girl was slightly injured when Palestinians stoned a bus on Sunday, military sources said. Work on a Jericho by-pass has suspended since May because of a lack of funds.

Qadhafi Prize goes to human rights union

TRIPOLI (AFP) — The \$250,000 Qadhafi Prize has been awarded to an African human rights union, a Libyan official announced Sunday. The award named after the country's leader Muammar Qadhafi will be handed over here on Aug. 30 to the Union Inter-Africaine des Droits de l'Homme, which was founded in 1992 in Quagadougou, Burkina Faso. The organisation is made up of human rights groups from Burkina Faso, Benin, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Rwanda, Burundi, Senegal, Togo, Zaire and Chad. The Qadhafi Prize, created in 1989, has previously been awarded to Nelson Mandela, the children of the Palestinian intifada, the Native Americans, the African AIDS centre, and the children of Bosnia.

Iran exports more than \$1b in carpets

TEHRAN (R) — Iran earned \$1.44 billion in one year through exports of carpets, its top export earner after oil, newspapers reported. They quoted Ali Said-Lo, deputy commerce minister and director of the Export Development Centre of Iran, as saying carpet exports from March 1993 through March 1994 made up 42 per cent of Iran's non-oil exports. In the first quarter of the new year, which started in March, carpet exports reached \$939 million, a 16 per cent increase compared with the same period in 1993.

Police restore calm in Rafah

RAFAH, Gaza Strip (Agencies) — Calm returned to the southern town of Rafah on Monday after two days of violence in which Palestinian police shot dead a teenager and wounded nine people.

A curfew clamped on the town and refugee camp late Sunday was lifted early Monday, after the worst clashes so far between the Palestinian police and civilians in the new self-rule areas.

Violence flared Sunday when hundreds of people marched on the house of a Palestinian policeman who shot dead 16-year-old Salah Al Shaer late Saturday.

They threw stones at police who tried to stop the march. Police fired in the air and at random, wounding six people including a 10-year-old boy, witnesses said.

Shaer's family were making funeral arrangements Monday after having called for Palestinians to revenge their son's death and comparing the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) with the former Israeli occupying forces.

Palestinian police admitted he was killed by mistake when they were in pursuit of criminals. In another incident Saturday they shot and wounded three Palestinians in a car.

Police commander Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali and Attorney General Khaled Al Qdahi went to Rafah to try to work out a truce between the two sides.

"The situation is gloomy," said local police prosecutor Ahmad Mubayyed earlier.

The policeman who fired, a member of the extended Abu Samahdah clan, was arrested. But members of the Shaer clan stormed the block

where Abu Samahdah lives and in the ensuing melee eight people suffered gunshot wounds.

"The curfew will be lifted after a reconciliation. We want to stop the bloodshed," the prosecutor said. The initial shooting is being investigated.

"We want to check the circumstances. The policemen should shoot in the air or at the legs," Mr. Mubayyed said in a telephone interview.

The curfew was the second imposed on a Gaza town by Palestinian authorities since the Strip achieved autonomy from Israel in mid-May. Israel frequently used curfews for crowd control during its 27-year-old occupation of Gaza.

Meanwhile, a Palestinian security official from the self-rule enclave of Jericho was arrested by the Israeli army in the occupied West Bank on Sunday after soldiers found a pistol in his car, his commander said.

Israel Radio identified him as Ibrahim Jara, a member of the Palestinian secret police in Jericho.

Jibril Al Rajouh, head of preventive security for the Palestinian self-rule administration in Jericho, told Reuters his man was arrested in the West Bank town of Jenin. Israel does not allow Palestinians to carry weapons outside the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

"There is no justification for holding him because the weapon found in the car did not belong to him," Mr. Rajouh said.

It was not immediately clear whether the Israeli army would file any charges against the man.

Confusion reigns in Rwanda-Zaire zone

BUKAVU, Zaire (Agencies) — Beaten back in attempts to cross into this already teeming frontier town, thousands of Rwandans trekked south Monday to another border crossing in hopes of finding sanctuary in Zaire.

About 20,000 frightened men, women and children were moving toward a newly reopened bridge across the Kuzizi River about 10 kilometres south of Bukavu, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said.

The spokesman, Ray Wilkinson, estimated that at least 45,000 would cross the bridge in the next few days, including thousands still en route to Bukavu from villages and towns in southwestern Rwanda.

Zairean authorities reopened the crossing Sunday after angry Rwandans overwhelmed Ethiopian U.N. peacekeepers at a closed frontier leading to Bukavu and clashed with Zairean soldiers, who beat them back with canes and sticks.

The riot began less than an hour after French troops withdrew from the Rwandan side of the bridge.

Mr. Wilkinson, speaking to reporters at Goma, Zaire, another border town about 90 kilometres north of Bukavu, said most of the newly arriving refugees were heading to the village of Hongo, between Bukavu and its airport.

But by late morning, an impatient UNHCR field officer was yelling into his radio that trucks had not been sent.

The latest surge of refugees was prompted by the pull-out of French troops from southwest Rwanda. The refugees, most of them from the majority Hutu tribe, fear violence from the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) in revenge for the killings of at least 500,000 Rwandans, mainly Tutsis, by Hutus earlier this year.

The RPF, which is dominated by Tutsis, overthrew the government in July, triggering a first refugee exodus into Zaire and other countries.

Mr. Barril, who had close contacts with the anti-terrorism unit at Mr. Mitterrand's office, said the president knew about the plot. Mr. Verges accused Mr. Mitterrand of personally ordering him killed.

"The highest state level, that is to say the Elysee (presidential palace), that is to say Mitterrand had decided to have me killed," he said. "What the president of the republic ordered was a crime... I am waiting for a denial," he said.

Mr. Mitterrand's office declined to comment on the charges. It said Mr. Barril never belonged to the Elysee's anti-terrorism unit and never worked at the presidential palace.

Yves Bonnet, who headed the domestic secret service DST at the time of the alleged plot, ridiculed Mr. Barril's accusations as "highly fantastic inventions from media addicts" and said Mr. Verges had never been discussed in anti-terrorism meetings.

He said Mr. Verges, who



RUSSIAN GAMBLING: Spectators watch a dog fight organised illegally in a forest place where people who prefer this form of gambling (AFP text to Moscow. Officially banned, such fights are held in secret locations attracting dozens of people)

Israel warns Fateh in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — The Israeli army warned Palestinian activists allied with Yasser Arafat to lay off pro-Jordanian Palestinians in the West Bank after a series of torchings, an army official said Monday.

Leaders of Fateh, Mr. Arafat's mainstream faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), were called into Israeli military headquarters last week after an office and several cars in the West Bank town of Jenin were torched, spokeswoman Captain Hanneh Jesurun said.

Tensions between pro-Fateh and pro-Jordanian Palestinians have flared since the July 25 Israel-Jordan declaration ending war between the two countries.

The declaration, which guaranteed Jordan a say in controlling Jerusalem's Muslim shrines, angered many Palestinians, who see the future of Jerusalem as a purely Palestinian issue. Most Palestinians support the PLO, but a substantial minority still back Jordan, which controlled the West Bank before 1967.

Israel and the Palestinians are due to negotiate the future of Jerusalem by 1995. The Palestinians currently control only the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho, and are now negotiating with the Israelis expanding the autonomy to the rest of the West Bank.

Mr. Arafat shut down a pro-Jordanian daily newspaper in response to the declaration. Fateh activists demonstrated in the West Bank towns of Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah, burning Jordanian flags.

One leader circulated in Jenin warned that "we will not tolerate the practice of policies of (outside) Arab regimes on our Palestinian soil."

Assassins torched the office of pro-Jordanian Jenin businessman Alan Rusheid, as well as cars belonging to other pro-Jordanians.

Capt. Jesurun said that prompted the Israeli military government in the West Bank to call in some Fateh leaders, most notably Samir Bakhia, the head of the Palestinian Students' Union, who had called for violence against the pro-Jordanians.

Mr. Sabiha and the others agreed to back off, she said. "Things have calmed down a bit since then," she said. "The warning was sufficient."

Iraq sees Western anti-Iran conspiracy

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The West is whipping up a campaign against Iran over nuclear smuggling in what may be a prelude to a wave of U.S.-inspired "terrorism" and an attack on the country, an official Iraqi newspaper said Monday.

The daily Babel, run by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, said "allusions to Iran" in recent reports about nuclear smuggling were aimed at "launching an air attack against that country, whose nuclear ambitions are well known, to punish it for anti-Jewish attacks in Buenos Aires."

Argentine authorities issued arrest warrants for four Iranian diplomats formerly stationed in Buenos Aires after the July 18 car bombing of a Jewish charity there, in which nearly 100 people were killed.

Babel, quoted by the official news agency INA monitored in Cyprus, said Iran "has no need to resort to contraband to buy uranium because it can obtain it by legal means from several countries."

President Saddam said Sunday the sanctions imposed on his country had reached their final phase and Iraq would emerge stronger than ever from the four-year embargo.

Somali gunmen kill 7 Indian peacekeepers

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Seven Indian U.N. peacekeepers were killed and six others were wounded in Somalia when militia attacked them with anti-aircraft guns, mortars and small arms on Monday, a U.N. military spokesman said.

The peacekeepers died when unidentified Somalis ambushed a convoy of Indian troops of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) at Burleigo village, between the towns of Buehaka and Baledogle, 200 kilometres from the Somali capital.

The latest incident brings to 106 the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed in fighting in Somalia since May 1993.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali recommended Friday that the United Nations immediately cut its personnel in Somalia by 1,500 and that the force eventually be cut down to 15,000.

U.N. military personnel in Somalia currently number 18,761.

Dr. Ghali said the force should be reduced to 15,000 before the end of Oct. or during November.

UNOSOM military spokesman Major Richard McDonald said the attack on the Indian convoy was "an unprovoked and carefully coordinated ambush."

"Anti-aircraft weapons, mortars and small arms were used against the UNOSOM troops. Seven Indian soldiers died with six wounded — three seriously," McDonald said.

"A number of 'technical' vehicles have been reported as destroyed by UNOSOM. Other Somali casualties and the identity of the attackers aren't known at this time," he said.

Meanwhile, representatives of the United Nations have been expelled from Somaliland, following accusations that they had been interfering in the internal affairs of self-declared republic, the president's office said in a statement.

COLUMN

Diana hits back at 'silent phone call' claims

LONDON (AFP) — Princess Diana hit back Monday at allegations in the weekend press that she dodged a male friend with silent telephone calls. In a rare interview, she told the Daily Mail there was "absolutely no truth" to claims that she made calls in 1992 and 1993 to London art dealer Oliver Hoare, who reportedly acted as a go-between the princess and Prince Charles in a bid for a reconciliation — they separated in December 1992. The tabloid News Of The World reported Sunday that police had traced several calls from Princess Diana's apartments in Kensington Palace to Mr. Hoare's home for several months either side of the separation. The paper said Princess Diana herself had made the silent calls, while other papers reported that one of her staff had done it. Police at Scotland Yard refused to comment. "What have I done to deserve this?" the princess told the paper. "I feel I am being destroyed. There is absolutely no truth in it." She said of Mr. Hoare: "He is a friend, he has helped me. They are trying to make out I was having an affair with this man or had some sort of fatal attraction... It is simply untrue and so unfair." She warned: "Do you realise that whoever is trying to destroy me is inevitably damaging the institution of the monarchy as well?" Justifying her decision to challenge the claims by talking to the press, she said: "What should I do? Close my ears and eyes to it all?" Conservative parliamentarian Sir Teddy Taylor demanded a police inquiry into the leak about the phone calls. "Leaks of this sort are becoming normal practice," he said.

The Ritz bar remembers Hemingway

PARIS (AFP) — Fifty years ago this Thursday Ernest Hemingway led an assault team charged with liberating one of this city's most venerable social shrines — the faded Ritz bar in the elegant Place Vendôme — from German occupation. The Ritz Hotel had been a Hemingway haunt since the late 1920s, when as an impetuous writer he frequented the bar in the company of his more fortunate fellow novelist, Scott Fitzgerald. Hemingway would later assert that whenever he thought of life after death the action always took place at the Ritz in Paris. No wonder then that the 46-year-old writer, who had earned his combat credentials in the Spanish civil war, was given the honour of securing the Ritz as Allied forces rolled into Paris. Wearing a war correspondent's uniform, wielding a sub-machine gun, Papa Hemingway took a team of French resistance fighters into the hotel. With the premises secured, he immediately ordered a round of dry martinis for his men. That very bar, now named after its most devoted patron and restored according to its original decor, will reopen for business this Aug. 25 after having been closed for many years. On offer will be a special vintage of Havana Club rum much favoured by Hemingway and other cocktails from his era.

Smithsonian's exhibit draws 1 million in Japan

CHIBA, Japan (AP) — The Smithsonian Institution's first overseas exhibition, described as a peek into America's attic, has attracted more than 1 million visitors in Japan, a spokesman said. As of Monday, about 1,011,960 people had travelled to this city 40 miles east of Tokyo to look at nuggets of American history including the ruby slippers Judy Garland wore in The Wizard of Oz and Gen. George Armstrong Custer's buckskin jacket. Organisers estimated 1.5 million people will see the exhibition before it closes on Aug. 31. It opened July 9, and admission is 2,400 yen (\$24) for adults. American Festival '94 got a high-profile start with promotional visits by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, three former Japanese prime ministers and Japan's crown prince and princess.

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